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DIOR DOMINATES

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HOV for dummies

TRAFFIC

Driver fined $85 for chauffeuring two mannequins in restricted lane

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Toronto police weren't fooled by the dummies in a Dodge pickup in a Gardiner HOV lane Wednesday morning.

"As the vehicle drove past the marked police car, the officer noticed that the front seat passenger did not appear to be lifelike," police said in a press release.

"The driver was stopped a short distance later and, upon approaching the driver's side of the vehicle, the officer was immediately able to determine that the front seat and back seat passengers were dressed mannequins."

The man had a sense of humour about the whole thing, but was a little embarrassed, said police spokesman Staff Sgt. Devin Kealey. "He said he got funny looks going through the Tim Hortons drive-thru in the morning."

"He's a male driver and the mannequins were both female. He was 50 and the mannequins wouldn't talk to tell us how old they were, but they looked fairly young," he added.

The driver got an $85 ticket and the incident quickly went up the chain and out to the public.

Police sent out a news release Wednesday afternoon, complete with the photo of the mannequins that the officer had taken as evidence.

These unusual passengers were in a car stopped by police. TORONTO POLICE

Police communications officers saw an opportunity to get the message out: "We thought by putting this out it lets everyone know that yes, you can spend money on mannequins, but you'll still end up with a ticket," said Kealey.

The changeover to the HOV lanes hasn't been easy, but it's getting better, said Kealey. There were 12 collisions in the first day, but with heavy enforcement of the lanes, collisions have declined to the typical one or two per rush.

FORD WEIGHS IN

HOV lanes 'a pain in the rear end'
Coun. Rob Ford admitted to illegal use of the HOV lanes, during a media scrum at city hall Wednesday morning.

"These HOV lanes are a complete disaster. I see people just going down the HOV lanes and saying, basically, 'Catch me if I can,'" Ford said. "I'll just go in and out, obviously you got to watch the cops over your shoulder ... but it's not just me; a lot of people have, I think it's a pain in the rear end, those HOV lanes."

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Fitness trackers don't have staying power. **Business**

TTC goes to the robots with synthesized service

TRANSIT

Human voices to be phased out in favour of computer ones

Chris Bateman
For Metro | Toronto

"Next stop: synthesized voices."

The TTC is removing human speech from its stop announcements in favour of a new computer generated voice. Over the next few years, the sound of TTC employees Susan Bigioni and Cheryl Bomé, the personalities behind subway and surface vehicles, will slowly vanish.

The process started in 2011 with the arrival of the new Toronto Rocket subway trains, which use synthesized female speech.

"Next station is: Union. Union station," they say, a touch mechanically.

"This station connects with the Bloor-Danforth subway," is added where appropriate.

Toronto's new streetcars come with a similarly robotic voice.

As more of the low-floor vehicles enter service, riders will slowly stop hearing a human cheerfully announcing the next place to exit, TTC spokesman Danny Nicholson said.

It will make the system, which aids visually impaired people, easier to manage.

Right now the TTC had to load the sound files into each streetcar and bus individually.

Already the non-human voice has bumped the sound of former TTC employee Susan Bigioni from the Yonge-University-Spadina line.

She recorded the original stop announcements in 2007, taking the job out of the hands of the individual train operators.

The streetcars and buses were voiced by Cheryl Bomé, a long-time TTC bus transportation department employee.

Bigioni retired several years ago and Bomé is no longer recording, meaning the computer will eventually take over completely.

"You'll still hear Sue for the time being on the Bloor-Danforth line, the Sheppard line, and the Scarborough RT," Nicholson said.

"Sheryl's voice will eventually be eliminated on all the bus and streetcar stop announcements."

Bigioni said she will be sad when her voice is finally gone.

"It takes away that human element, it's just a machine," she said.

"I had comments that people found my voice soothing, that they preferred my voice over the computer generated one."

"It would be nice if my voice could remain there, but this world is turning quickly," she said.

> **"It takes away that human element, it's just a machine. I had comments that people found my voice soothing, that they preferred my voice over the computer-generated one.**
> Susan Bigioni, TTC employee

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

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ENVIRONMENT

Ontario, Quebec press feds for action on climate change

Ontario, Quebec and California leaders joined together Wednesday to "light a fire" under their respective federal governments to step up the fight against climate change.

Canada's two most populous provinces are "filling the void" left by Ottawa as they try to solve the problem of rising temperatures, Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard said at the two-day Climate Summit of the Americas.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne said she wants the federal government to "hear the message" that they cannot solve the problem alone. California Gov. Jerry Brown chimed in, saying Prime Minister Stephen Harper needs to "get on board."

Federal Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq is not attending the meeting — she is in her riding celebrating Nunavut Day — but a spokesman said they are the first government in Canadian history to achieve a net-reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and have done so "without implementing carbon taxes or carbon-pricing schemes."

Ontario, Quebec and California are teaming up on a cap-and-trade system in which businesses have a greenhouse gas quota and are able to sell credits to reward efficiency and innovation.

> **"We can't any longer claim ignorance of the price of further delay.**
> Premier Kathleen Wynne

Couillard said Wednesday that Quebec had signed a memorandum of understanding to join California and Ontario and other subnational states that "commits ourself to a very ambitious set of targets with only one objective: to keep warming below or at the maximum two degrees by 2050."

Countries don't need to wait around for federal governments to take action on climate change, Couillard said at the conference, where hundreds of invitation-only delegates from subnational states gathered.

Brown agreed with him and spoke plainly about the bleak prospects for the world if nothing changes.

"At the lower level, the subnational level, we want to do what we can to light a fire under our respective national leaders to get things moving because climate change doesn't wait for anybody," he said.

In the opening remarks at the conference, Wynne said developed nations brought about climate change and those same nations now must band together to fix it.

"The oceans will continue to rise and we'll experience longer, more intense heat waves and rainstorms, erosion, flooding, wildfires — our ecosystem is compromised, our infrastructure is at risk." Wynne told the crowd.

Couillard spoke about the success the province has had with carbon pricing and moving to an environmentally focused economy.

"This is certainly not at the expense of growth and job creation," Couillard told the crowd.

"Let us all reject this false choice, rather let us build a different type of growth as solid, but more sustainable than our economy today that is still based on fossil fuels." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Summertime and the livin' is ... pretty meh

WEATHER

Toronto has yet to hit 30 C this year — May 18 came closest

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

If you feel like summer hasn't truly started yet, there's a reason why: Toronto hasn't hit 30C yet, and there isn't a heat wave in sight.

"By the end of the first week of July, we'd normally have seen four or five days of 30-plus weather and we've had none," said Environment Canada meteorologist Peter Kimbell. "July, so far, has been notably cooler than average."

We've come close. May, with a mean temperature of 16.2C, was slightly above average and May 18 hit 29.4C. That was the warmest day so far this year, said Kimbell.

The Weather Network reports Toronto has only gone this late in the year without seeing 30C once before — that was in 1996. That year, the first and only 30-plus day was Aug. 7.

But if you're really looking forward to a shirt-sticking-to-your-back summer day, you may be in luck this weekend.

"We can cross our fingers for the first 30-degree day on Sunday, but there is no big heat wave in sight, still," he said.

"Next week it will be pleasant at 27 on Monday and 25 on Tuesday."

Kimbell said Southern Ontario hasn't seen the typical waves of hot weather coming up from the south, but British Columbia has, and has seen high temperatures.

Despite cooler than usual temperatures, people, like these paddleboarders, are finding reasons to hit the great outdoors in Toronto, with dogs along for the ride. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TIFF

Strictly free films

The Toronto International Film Festival is celebrating its 40th anniversary year by showing 40 free films, kicking off with a huge outdoor party at David Pecaut Square on Wednesday evening.

The event will include free food, cupcakes, a performance from a surprise Toronto band and a screening of Baz Luhrmann's 1992 romantic comedy Strictly Ballroom. TIFF will also announce upcoming programming during the festivities, which begin at 7:30 p.m.

By Wednesday afternoon, nearly 8,000 people replied to the event on Facebook.

Venue capacity will not be an issue, a TIFF spokesperson says.

The TIFF in the Park free movie series runs every Wednesday until Sept. 2, at sundown in David Pecaut Square. A related event of free screenings, TIFF in Your Park, will take place at neighbourhood parks around the GTA, from July 11 to Sept. 25. It begins Saturday with Fly Away Home at Lotherton Pathway in North York. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SPONSORED CONTENT

Get camera ready

Zoom in on all the incredible action

The Pan Am Games are about to take over Toronto. With the opening ceremonies tomorrow, many may be plotting their escape to the tranquility of cottage country, but the action is going to be here in the city. If you are planning on taking in some world-class sports, Henry's has collected some great tips for capturing all the outdoor action, whether you are shooting Canada's athletes on the world stage, or your kids' team competing at the local park.

CONTRIBUTED

ANTICIPATE THE ACTION
Focus on the sport without shooting for a few minutes to identify places where the big moments tend to take place. Position yourself to keep those zones in view without any obstruction, and lock your focus and exposure ahead of time. Set your camera to burst a series of pictures when you press the shutter release and you will be ready to capture that first-place shot.

USE A HIGH ISO SETTING TO FREEZE ACTION, EVEN IN BRIGHT SUNLIGHT
We usually think of high ISO as a tool for capturing bright images in a low-light environment, but a high ISO setting will also allow your camera to select a very fast shutter speed.

USE A LONGER SHUTTER SPEED AND PAN WITH THE ACTION
This is the opposite of the advice above, and it produces a very different effect. Select a longer shutter speed (along with a lower ISO) and follow the action as it moves past you. If you keep the athlete in the same place in your viewfinder as you pan, they will stay tack sharp and the background will turn into a blurry streak. This is a trick the pros often use to convey speed and energy in their sports shots.

SHOOT THE CROWD, TOO
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Residents fear that duplexes taking over

OSSINGTON

Developers razing homes to build 'luxury boxes'

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Ossington-area residents are voicing concern over the growing trend of vertical duplexes, saying the "massive" homes are making the neighbourhood less affordable for new families.

According to Jessica Wilson, vice president of the Ossington Community Association, about 10 of the developments have sprung up in the area in the two years since the city's zoning bylaws were amended.

The duplexes, sometimes referred to as vertical splits, consist of a single building on a single lot, divided vertically into two separate homes.

"Developers want to build them as big as they can get away with," Wilson said. "They're really out of scale with the existing character of these residential streets."

The community association is holding a meeting July 14 to discuss the issue. Ward 19 councillor Mike Layton and members of the city planning department will be in attendance.

"It's a legitimate concern," Layton said. "What happens when each property is being built out to the limits on every side? How does that affect the quality of life in a community?"

Wilson said the duplexes contravene Toronto's official plan, which requires new developments to adhere to the character of existing neighbourhoods. However, her primary concern is that developers are replacing affordable homes with "luxury boxes."

"These things are massive," she said. "And they're massively profitable."

A vertical split duplex (right) that was built recently at 25 Givins St. in Toronto. Nearby residents say the duplexes are 'out of scale' with the neighbourhood and making the area less affordable. COURTESY OSSINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

In one example, Wilson said a developer purchased a home for approximately $750,000 and razed it to make room for a vertical split. They then converted the homes into condos and sold them for a total of $2.2 million.

"The neighbourhood is changing. It's becoming more expensive and families with young children are being pushed out," said Jennifer Horvath, who lives across the street from a vertical split on Givins Street.

Horvath said the split has encroached onto her neighbours' backyard and led to a lack of on-street parking.

"The infrastructure isn't keeping up with the development," she said.

While the Ossington Community Association has picked its share of fights with developers over the years, Wilson firmly rejected the "NIMBY" tag.

"NIMBY is an insulting term," she said. "It's been appropriated by development-friendly factions to serve as a blanket way of shutting down discussion by community activists."

HOUSING

Top-tier real estate in demand

So-called "top-tier real estate" — most notably Toronto and Vancouver homes in the $4 million-plus stratosphere — remain in high demand, with sales expected to spike further by the end of this year.

All the talk of a looming recession doesn't appear to be having a dampening effect, at least not yet, except in Calgary where sales of million-dollar-plus homes have plummeted by 36 per cent in the first half of this year, says an annual report by Sotheby's International Realty Canada.

Across the GTA, sales of houses and condos over $1 million were up 56 per cent in the first half of this year over the same period last year, surpassing Canada's priciest city, Vancouver, yet again, where houses and condo sales in that price point were up 48 per cent, says the report being released Thursday.

A lot of that surge is because so many "conventional" detached and even semi-detached homes and condos now have catapulted into the $1 million plus price range in the country's two biggest cities through a combination of low interest rates, demand that continues to outstrip supply, a low dollar that is encouraging more foreign investment and strong immigration, the report notes.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Deportations drop in the GTA

IMMIGRATION

Plunge worries former Canada border service executive

An unexplained 50 per cent drop in deportations — both nationally and locally — over the last three years has a former senior executive with Canada's border agency worried.

Reg Williams, the former director of immigration enforcement at the Canada Border Services Agency's Greater Toronto enforcement centre, has written to the Clerk of the Privy Council, claiming that the rapid and precipitous drop in deportations is a red flag that suggests the program is "grossly mismanaged."

Williams is calling for a mechanism to review the deportation process and the CBSA. "I'm not raising this to embarrass the government or the department," said Williams. "I'm raising this because it's an issue that citizens should be aware of."

The border agency hasn't explained the drop in removals.

It's unclear what has led to a steep drop in deportations. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Williams believes it's due to mismanagement, but refugee advocates believe it may be because of the changes in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act that make it harder to come to Canada and claim refugee status.

For its part, the CBSA is championing its efforts.

"The removal numbers are indicative of CBSA's significant efforts towards clearing backlogs in the system," said spokesman Travis O'Brien, pointing to a national program to remove failed refugee claimants as an example of the success of the agency.

Nationally, the number of overall deportations has dropped 50 per cent from just over 16,000 in fiscal year 2011-2012 to 8,000 in fiscal 2014-2015, Williams says.

The number of deportations in the GTA has also dropped at a similar rate, according to Williams' calculations. When Williams left his job, more than 8,000 people were deported a year from the GTA. In the fiscal year ending March 31, 2015, overall deportations from the GTA were only at 4,000.

CBSA data confirm Williams' claims. In 2012, 18,960 people were removed from Canada. But for the first half of 2015 that number is only 4,712.

Here in the GTA in 2012, 9,584 people were deported, according to CBSA figures. Halfway through 2015 only 1,963 individuals were removed.

These trends all say the system isn't working, Williams maintains in his letter to the Clerk of the Privy Council.

There has also been a drop in arrests under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act since 2012-2013, from 2,837 that year to 1,887 in 2014-2015, according to CBSA data. And yet yearly "jail days" have increased to "the highest in Canadian history," Williams said. One "jail day" is defined as one individual detained at a provincial facility for one day.

"It defies logic that in the face of a 50 per cent drop in removals during the same period, the annual jail days total would be significantly higher than when the program was removing twice as many," he wrote in his letter.

Williams left his job as head of the Greater Toronto enforcement centre in Toronto in 2012 when a removal of a high-profile illegal immigrant went wrong. He was reassigned, but instead opted for retirement.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1,963

So far in 2015, 1,963 individuals have been removed from the Greater Toronto Area, according to Canadian Border Services Agency data.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

9,584

CBSA figures say that in 2012, 9,584 people were deported from the GTA.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Expanded gambling to hit Woodbine

CITY HALL

Tory promises more jobs for Rexdale residents

After an all-day debate, city council has voted 25-19 to support expanded gaming at Woodbine Racetrack in the northwest part of the city.

Mayor John Tory, a strong proponent of the plan, said he doesn't diminish opponents on council who are concerned about problems created by gambling.

"My support for taking this proposition to the next stage does, however, arise out of a profound determination that I have to see more jobs become available in the northwest corner of the city, an area that has been starved for jobs and opportunity for a long, long time," Tory said before the vote.

MICHAEL BURNS PHOTO

The track is located in Rexdale which has seen a 26 per cent decline in employment in the last decade.

The mayor said he would have been less supportive of the plan if horse-race betting and slot machines weren't already on the site.

But he Tory said he is counting on the additional investment he expects to flow from other development on the 275-hectare site.

Three members of Tory's executive committee, Deputy Mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong, Paul Ainslie and James Pasternak, voted against expansion.

The Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp. has proposed almost doubling the number of slot machines at Woodbine — to 5,000 — and adding 120 gaming tables such as blackjack, craps and roulette. A search for an operator is underway. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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HBC HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Mubashar Jafri and other Toronto taxi drivers stage a mass protest against Uber on June 1. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

UBER

Compromise offer in taxicabs battle

The taxi industry says it is willing to compromise — including taking a financial hit — if it means Uber drivers will be forced to follow the same city rules as the industry.

The challenge of bringing both new technologies like Uber and traditional taxi services under one legal umbrella is now up to city staff after council unanimously voted Wednesday night to launch a review of the city's bylaws.

Mayor John Tory said after the vote he knows it will be difficult to craft a bylaw that will appease both sides.

"Truth to tell, I'm not aware of a city that has successfully done this, but that doesn't mean you don't try," he said. "At least now people are at the table and at least we have the council's authority to go ahead and try and develop that law."

Earlier this week, Tory called for a single law that would regulate all ground transportation — both cabs and companies like Uber that have been disrupting traditional business around the world with a mobile app that makes hailing a licensed taxi or a unlicensed driver easier and in some cases cheaper.

The push for equal enforcement of both services stems from an Ontario Superior Court judge's ruling that rejected the city's earlier attempt to kick Uber out of Toronto. Similar battles have embroiled local councils across North America and elsewhere with varying outcomes. Other jurisdictions are now looking to see how Toronto resolves its differences.

City staff are expected to report back on proposed bylaw changes in September.

On Monday, the taxi industry and Uber representatives agreed — at a meeting in Tory's office — that they were willing to compromise. The industry called the vote Wednesday night a success.

"We expect one law for everybody," said Toronto Taxi Alliance spokesperson and fleet operator Sam Moini. But he said their condition is that Uber — which he argued does the same job of getting people from point A to point B — must be forced to follow those same rules. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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5 facts about the BIG sign

In preparation for the Pan Am Games, the city has installed a gigantic, 3D "Toronto" sign in Nathan Phillips Square. The sculpture has proven popular with visitors and residents, and the city is encouraging people to take selfies in front of it and share them online using the hashtags #share3DTO and #HostCity2015. Here are some fun facts about the sign itself:

LIZ BEDDALL METRO

1. Each letter is over three metres tall.
2. The letters weigh approximately 135 kilograms.
3. Each letter's plinth tips the scales at nearly 1,200 kilograms.
4. The whole piece contains 400 metres of L.E.D. lights, allowing each letter to be lit up in one of 228 million colours.
5. The piece will remain in front of city hall during the games, after which it will be placed in other iconic locations across Toronto.

ALCOHOL

Hours extended at 3 LCBOs

It's not all sour grapes with the Pan Ams in town. The LCBO is taking the opportunity to extend store hours at three downtown Toronto locations.

"Those three locations are in the middle of the hub of activity, so that's why we wanted to extend the hours," said LCBO spokesperson Keeley Rogers.

From July 7 to 26, the store in the old Maple Leaf Gardens will open 30 minutes earlier and stay open an hour later Monday to Saturday, operating from 9:30 a.m. until 11 p.m. Sunday shoppers get an extra hour, too, with the shop open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The fun doesn't end when the Games leave town, though. Two locations permanently extended their hours starting Tuesday.

The Queens Quay location at 2 Cooper St. opens 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. At King Street W. and Spadina Avenue, shoppers can stock up starting 9:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. on Sundays. It will stay open until 10 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 11 p.m. on weekends. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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ATHLETES' VILLAGE WELCOMING COMMITTEE The Pan Am Games' Athletes' Village is officially up and running, after a lighthearted event on Wednesday night. Canadian racing cyclist Curt Harnett, bottom second from right, led the official Team Welcome Ceremony for Canada at the village on Front Street. MELISSA RENWICK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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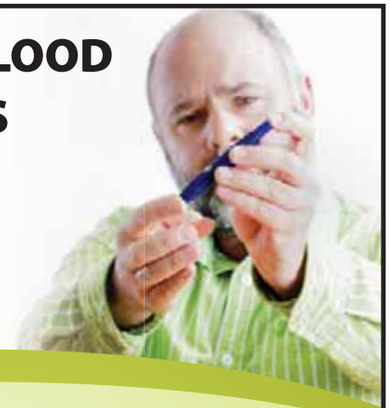

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5 OLYMPIC BIDS THAT DIDN'T GO TORONTO'S WAY

With the opening ceremony of the Pan Am Games just days away, discussion has turned to whether Toronto could use the event as a springboard to the Olympics. If history is any guide, it probably won't happen. In the 60 years this city has been bidding for the summer games, it has been beaten five times out of five. Meanwhile, Montreal, Calgary and Vancouver have all become Olympic hosts. Here is a look at Toronto's decades of broken Olympic dreams. **CHRIS BATEMAN** FOR METRO

1 Rome, 1960

Why Toronto lost: Toronto only half-heartedly tossed its name into the hat for the 1960 games. The city made an informal bid, along with 18 other cities, including Detroit, which came close after offering to cover athletes' travel costs. Rome eventually prevailed after three rounds of ballots.

2 Tokyo, 1964

Why Toronto lost: Determined to make a better go of its 1964 bid, Toronto found itself pitted against Detroit and Tokyo beginning in 1955. Boxing could have been held at Maple Leaf Gardens and yachting, canoeing and rowing in Lake Ontario, the papers thought. By 1959, however, this city had fallen by the wayside, leaving Motor City, Tokyo, Vienna and Brussels to duke it out. In the end, Tokyo won by a landslide.

3 Montreal, 1976

Why Toronto lost: When Canada finally got its first summer games in 1976, it was Montreal that came out on top, not Toronto. In 1965, the Canadian Olympic Association officially backed the Quebec city to represent Canada. Toronto had hoped to use the games to revitalize the waterfront and jump-start housing projects but ultimately lost.

4 Atlanta, 1996

Why Toronto lost: This one hurt. Toronto really tried to land the 1996 Olympics. In 1990, councillors voted 12-5 to make a formal bid for the games, and the provincial and federal governments agreed to chip in some of the funds. Waterfront renewal and affordable housing were again to be key legacy projects of the $16-million bid. Sadly, Atlanta took the games, with Toronto finishing third behind Athens.

5 Beijing, 2008

Why Toronto lost: Toronto took its most recent shot at the games shortly after amalgamation in 1999. "An Olympic bid is just the tonic Toronto needs to shake it from its post-amalgamation doldrums," said former mayor David Crombie. Though the city lost out to Beijing in 2001, the waterfront-renewal ideas survived. The Waterfront Task Force (now Waterfront Toronto) was established during the bidding process.

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Leadership team member Michelle Philp smiles Wednesday, during the opening ceremony of PrideHouse Toronto ahead of the Pan Am Games. MARK BLINCH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

PRIDEHOUSE

Games focused on inclusion

Toronto gay rights organizations say they want to make sure everyone feels welcome at the Pan Am Games.

Fourteen organizations have come together to open PrideHouse, a safe space for gay and transgender athletes, officials and visitors at the Games.

It's the first PrideHouse at a Pan Am Games, and the first to receive support from the organizing committee.

PrideHouse organizers say they hope Toronto's efforts to be inclusive will set a precedent for future international competitions.

A delegation from Rio de Janeiro, which will host the Olympic Games next year, is coming to learn about setting up its own PrideHouse.

The Pan Am Games start Friday and end on July 26th, with the Parapan Am Games to follow in August. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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5 Indulge yourself with wine and truffles on the tasting tour at the Holland Marsh Winery in this romantic setting just outside of Newmarket.

6 Explore the night sky at the David Dunlap Observatory and check out a few celestial objects, including the Moon, Mars and Saturn

7 Follow your quest for outdoor adventure to the Recreational Outdoor Campus (ROC) in Keswick and rock climb, zipline, bike and play ball.

8 Hoist a pint of period ales and explore the world of 19th century brewers at the Black Creek Historic Brewery in Black Creek Pioneer Village.

9 Take your creative spirit to the heritage village of Unionville for art galleries, music festivals, farmers' markets and fresh-air patio dining.

10 Take adventure to the highest level in the magical forest at Treetop Trekking Stouffville in Bruce's Mills Conservation Area.

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BIO

Toronto 2015 will be Adam van Koeverden's first appearance at the Pan Am Games. He is scheduled to race in the K-1 (single kayak) 1,000-metre race.

Born: Toronto, Ont., January 29, 1982

Educated: McMaster University (honours bachelor of science in kinesiology), 2007

Olympic Medals:
Gold: K-1,500 metres, Athens 2004
Silver: K-1,500 metres, Beijing 2008; K-1 1,000 metres, London 2012
Bronze: K-1 1,000 metres, Athens 2004

World Championship medals:
Gold: K-1, 500 metres, 2007; K-1 1,000 metres, 2011
Silver: K-1 1,000 metres, 2003; K-1 1,000 metres, 2005; K-1 1,000 metres, 2007
Bronze: K-1 ,500 metres, 2005; K-1 1,000 metres, 2009; K-1,500 metres, 2010

FAVOURITE FOR GOLD
Unlike a lot of sports that are dominated by Americans, van Koeverden's biggest competitors are European — and they're are not in the Pan Am Games.

Adam van Koeverden at the Burloak Canoe Club, Oakville, Ont., on July 2. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

METROTALKS ADAM VAN KOEVERDEN

In the latest of a series of conversations with influencers, we visit with the **champion kayaker** before the Pan Am Games

HIGH HOPES FOR HOMETOWN HERO

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Adam van Koeverden is excited that the 2015 Pan Am Games have come to Toronto — and not just because of the competition.

When Metro paid a visit to the star kayaker's morning training session at the Burloak Canoe Club in Oakville, Ont., a little over a week before the Games' official kickoff, the Toronto native said he's already thinking about the Games' enduring legacy.

As a two-time world champion four-time Olympic medallist (yes, there's a gold in there), he knows from experience that major sporting events are bigger than sports. When China hosted the 2008 Olympics, where he won a silver medal in K-1 (single kayaker) 500-metre event, the hot topic was the country's human-rights record. It was "a good thing" that the world talked about those issues because of the Games, he said.

The Greater Toronto Area might not have that kind of reputation to contend with, but, van Koeverden said, the Pan Am Games is an opportunity to improve infrastructure, city planning, traffic and transportation issues — and not just in Toronto proper, either.

"You can call these the Golden Horseshoe Games," he said. "They benefit the entire region. It's what made the original bid so attractive. When you get an Olympics or the Pan Am Games, all of the issues that were on the back burner get done."

Citing the recent completion of an express rail line between Toronto's Pearson Airport and downtown's Union Station as a case in point, van Koeverden also mentioned the two most pressing transit issues in Toronto: Expansion of the city's subway system and modernization of the elevated Gardiner Expressway.

"If we get the Olympics, guess what? I bet they're done. That's what it takes — something; a deadline."

Van Koeverden has high hopes for his hometown.

Citing, with evident pride, the city's multicultural composition, he said he would like his sports peers to get out of the athletes' villages and experience the wider city.

"I think one of our greatest assets is our neighbourhoods," he said. "When my Romanian friend visited I took him to Spadina for soba noodles.

"A Romanian, in Chinatown, for Japanese noodles. That's Toronto."

> **"I hope that after the opening ceremonies the city erupts.**
> Adam van Koeverden

How a gold-medal kayaker trains

Fernando Carneiro
Metro | Toronto

Two weeks before competition Adam van Koeverden went to a bar. He had a soda and left at 9:30 p.m.

Practice isn't everything, he says. Recovery is just as important.

"It's something people don't recognize — training breaks down your body. Rest builds it back up," van Koeverden told Metro in an interview following practice at the Burloak Canoe Club in Oakville, Ont.

He does drink alcohol, eats whatever he wants and does stay up late. But this close to competition, he adjusts his routine.

Here's what his days are like:

6 a.m.: The alarm clock goes off. Maybe he'll hit snooze before having a coffee and a banana or yogurt.

6:30 a.m.: He starts the drive to Oakville and, no, he doesn't get to drive on the HOV lanes. He's stuck in traffic with the rest of the hapless commuters, listening to CBC radio.

7:30-ish: Van Koeverden hits the water for a two- to 2.5-hour practice session. This is considered short. "This close to competition, I'm past the extreme endurance phase," he says.

9:30-ish: Once practice is done, it's time to put away the kayak. At this time of the year the Burloak Canoe Club is full of children at summer camp. "They look at me and wonder, 'Who's this old guy?'" the 33-year-old Van Koeverden said.

10 a.m.: Sporting shorts and a T-shirt, van Koeverden drives to Whole Foods in Oakville for breakfast. This is his reward for a hard morning of paddling. The cashier knows him, not as an athlete, but as a regular customer. Last Thursday he ordered a breakfast sandwich with a side of bacon, having given up his brief stint with vegetarianism. "I'm not obsessed with my diet, as most people are — non-athletes and athletes alike. It's the new religion, I think. There's being mindful and thoughtful about what you eat, and then there's being like, proselytizing about what you eat, and blogging about what you eat, and taking pictures of your food constantly. I just think there's something wrong with that."

Afternoon: Van Koeverden goes to the gym about two to three times a week. At least once a week he goes for a jog, saying the highlight of his week was his Sunday morning run.

AVK's 3 Canadians to watch

BASKETBALL
"Basketball is one of the most accessible sports and you get an excellent cross-section of youth."

MARK OLDERSHAW, SPRING CANOEIST
"He just got married, had a pretty good world cup and he's our flag bearer. This is the 'Summer of Mark.'"

ANDRE DE GRASSE, SPRINTER
"What more do people look forward to than the 100-metre sprint?"

Adam van Koeverden trains at the Burloak Canoe Club in Oakville, Ont., on July 2. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

ACCESSIBILITY

Build it and they will come, says Olympian

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Toronto

At 8 a.m. on a weekday in the summer, school's out and Adam van Koeverden's home canoe club is bustling with teenagers.

About a dozen of them with concerted faces paddle by in a war canoe — likely those who are striving to be champions. Others are likely just there to splash around because their parents want them to, but that's great too, van Koeverden says.

Van Koeverden, who studied cultural and socio-economic barriers to sports as part of his kinesiology program at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont., recognizes that in most places in Canada, due to a lack of funding and infrastructure, kids don't have such easy access to sports equipment and facilities. That's something he hopes will change, in part thanks to large-scale events like the Pan Am Games.

"It takes a community to create a community sports program," he said. "It doesn't take just one person. It takes a lot — and the upkeep, and the sustainability of it is really based on people and their hard work."

But before you bring a group of people together to work towards a common goal, he said, you need a place for them to be: a facility. And that's why investing in sports infrastructure matters, he said

His canoe club, formerly known as the Oakville Racing Club, was founded in 1974 by sprint paddler Bill Collins. It was established on an old sewage-treatment plant that the town no longer had any use for.

They've come a long way since then. The aquatics centres, gymnasiums, fields and bike parks built for the Pan Am Games are going to have a lasting impact on Toronto and the surrounding area, van Koeverden said, pointing to the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre (TPASC) facility in Scarborough, which includes two Olympic-sized swimming pools, a running track and a diving program.

"As long as we install all the necessary infrastructure and resources post-Pan Am in that place, then I guarantee there'll be an Olympic swimmer from Scarborough," he said. "And if there's one Olympic swimmer, it means that there are 3,000 kids who are swimming. And that's the important thing."

On Americans who might consider going into paddling

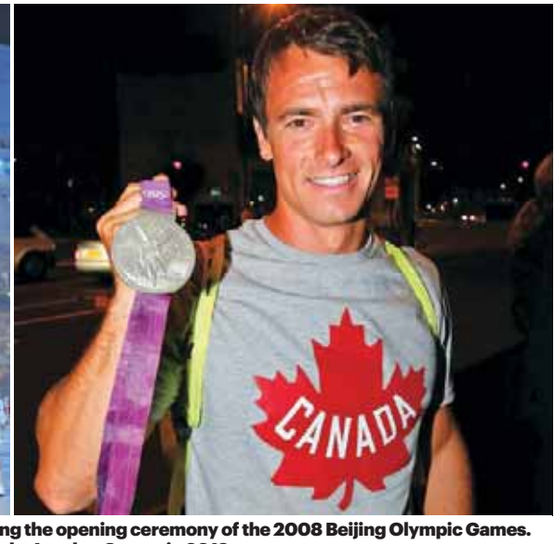
I would tell them to go for a sport that offers scholarships and a paycheque.

On Pan Am's marketing

There aren't enough posters. Kinky Boots has more posters than the Pan Am Games.

On how we started paddling

My mom was concerned I was going to find trouble after school. Canoe club was her solution.



Adam van Koeverden, left, leads the Canadian delegation during the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Right: Van Koeverden shows off his Olympic silver medal after the London Games in 2012. GETTY IMAGES

VANCOUVER ISLAND

Orphaned bears remain in limbo

The orphans. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two orphaned black-bear cubs — that owe their lives to a Vancouver Island conservation officer who refused orders to kill the brother and sister — still face an uncertain future.

The cubs, named Athena and Jordan, sat in the corner of a holding pen on Wednesday at the North Island Wildlife Recovery Association, awaiting their fate, which could involve rehabilitation, release or euthanasia.

Insp. Chris Doyle of the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service said the cubs' future remains unclear because when wild animals — even very young ones — get close to humans, they become habituated.

"Obviously, the preference is to keep the bears alive and wild and to prevent conflicts from happening in the first place," he said.

B.C. Environment Ministry statistics show that conservation officers killed 32 black bears last month, relocated 10 and frightened off 21. No black bear cubs were sent to rehabilitation.

Doyle said bears, especially cubs, are not handed an immediate death sentence when they come into conflict with humans, but the odds are not good.

The cubs were orphaned when their mother was killed after breaking into a meat freezer inside a mobile home in Port Hardy on northern Vancouver Island. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FIRST NATIONS BLANKETED WITH GIFTS Environmentalist David Suzuki receives gifts from Chief Shane Gottftuedson, left, and National Chief Perry Bellegarde at an Assembly of First Nations meeting in Montreal. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Senators aim to bar radicals

SECURITY

Training and certifying imams among suggestions

> **We must find every resource ... to defeat a most uncivilized force.**
> Senate committee report

The federal government should outlaw membership in a terrorist group, bar radicals from Canada and look at forbidding the glorification of extremists to protect the Canadian way of life, a Senate committee says.

The Senate security and defence committee also recommends creation of a "wanted terrorist" list and urges the government to explore options for training and certification of imams in Canada.

In addition, it calls on the government to work with Muslim communities to create "an effective counter-narrative" to denounce the ideology of Islamist fundamentalism.

These are among 25 recommendations in the committee's interim report flowing from nine months of hearings on security threats facing Canada.

The report examines terrorist recruitment, operations, financing, prosecutions and other aspects of what it calls the genuine threat of violent extremism.

Canadians must tackle the issue in a thoughtful, balanced way without undermining the values "that make us great," the report says. "Our goal is to lessen the risk to all Canadians, including the risk to vulnerable young Canadians who might be lured to extreme ideas and violent action."

The report represents the views of the Conservative majority of the committee but lacks the backing of Liberal members.

A number of the recommendations push farther than the Harper government chose to go in its omnibus security bill, introduced after two Canadian soldiers were killed last October in daylight attacks just days apart by jihadi-inspired, lone-wolf attackers.

"We cannot try to appease this threat that we face," Conservative Sen. Dan Lang, the committee chairman, said in an interview.

One recommendation takes aim at groups that invite foreign nationals with extremist views to speak to impressionable youth. It urges the government to establish a publicly accessible list of "ideological radicals" deemed to be a security threat, prohibiting them from visiting Canada.

A spokesman for Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney defended the government's efforts to date, noting the anti-terrorism legislation allows police to take action to prevent radicalization, including removal of Internet material used to influence people.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A wildfire blazes beyond a treeline in the La Ronge, Sask., area in this July 5 handout photo. Fires and smoke have forced about 9,000 people from their homes in more than 50 communities in the northern part of the province.

COREY HARDCASTLE/HO/SASK. MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Soldiers help battle fires

SASKATCHEWAN

Foreign crews set to help further west

Soldiers began helping crews fight wildfires threatening communities in northern Saskatchewan on Wednesday, as other Western provinces called in help from foreign countries.

About 360 troops were out building fire guards and clearing brush near La Ronge and Montreal Lake.

Steve Roberts with Saskatchewan Wildfire Management said crews were making some progress and better visibility allowed aircraft to dump water on some flames.

He said the fire situation across Western Canada is so busy that it is a challenge for provinces to get enough firefighters.

"As we started down the road with these fires, Alberta and British Columbia fire hazards escalated, the numbers of fires increased and they had community evacuations as well," Roberts said.

"That has stretched the availability of resources across the country."

Flames and thick smoke have forced an estimated 9,000 people from their homes in Saskatchewan. Crews from Quebec, Ontario, Newfoundland, New Brunswick and South Dakota have been helping out.

Roberts said the province was in discussions the United States government about the possibility of more crews coming north.

The La Ronge First Nation was also seeking volunteers to help fight fires, including evacuees.

The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, which coordinates firefighting services for the provinces, territories and Ottawa, said Canada may have to seek more help from abroad.

The latest report on the agency website said the wildfire hazard is extreme and major wildfires "have the potential to exhaust agency fire resources nationally."

"International mobilization of resources through international co-operators is likely," reads the website. "National resource levels are insufficient to meet occurring and anticipated wildland fire activity." THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

B.C. Premier to get peek at wildfire base near Whistler

British Columbia Premier Christy Clark is visiting a community north of Whistler on Wednesday to get a closer look at the one of the province's largest wildfires.

Clark will be in Pemberton, which is 67 kilometres east of the Elaho fire, a 200-square-kilometre blaze that was sparked by lightning and first discovered on June 14.

Fire information officer Kevin Skrepnek said nearly 190 fires were burning around the province, with 31 new ones starting Tuesday.

Kurtis Isfeld of the BC Wildfire Service said he predicts about 30 wildfires will erupt every day, and officials have begun prioritizing them based on human life and safety, property, critical habitat and timber.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WILDFIRES

Ontario sends firefighters, equipment to B.C.

Big hills and bigger mountains are the most significant differences confronting a team of Ontario firefighters as they prepare to start work in British Columbia.

The group of 70 firefighters, sent to B.C. by Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources earlier this week to help combat wild land fires, are facing a much different terrain than their usual Ontario landscape.

"The biggest difference is the topography, mountains, valleys, a lot of hills in British Columbia (compared to) relatively flat in Ontario," Fred Welch, a program co-ordinator for the ministry, said from Edmonton.

The geography creates challenges for the team, including fatigue, but Welch says it's not a problem.

"Our crews are well-versed in working in other provinces; we've been there a number of times," Welch said. "When we go to other provinces, we're made aware of their safety policies and procedures as well of our own."

The Ontario team will get assistance from B.C.'s fire management officials, including detailed briefings, and the pairing of staff from Ontario with local firefighters to help them get going, he says.

B.C. requested the help through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, which sends firefighters and equipment across the country when needed.

Ontario also sent two CL-415 heavy water bombers, a Birddog aircraft and seven aviation personnel, according to Debbie MacLean, a spokeswoman for the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The deployment to B.C. comes as wild land fires rage across parts of western Canada, including Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Greece asks Europe for three-year aid program

ECONOMIC CRISIS

Government races to draft new reform proposal

Greece requested a new three-year rescue program from its European partners on Wednesday and rushed to complete a detailed plan of economic reforms in time to avoid the country's descent into financial chaos.

With the banking system teetering on the edge of collapse, the government sought to reassure its European creditors that it would enact tax and pension reforms quickly in exchange for loans from Europe's bailout fund, the European Stability Mechanism.

In its formal request to tap the fund, the Greek government said it would "immediately implement a set of measures as early as the beginning of next week."

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, left, in Strasbourg, France, Wednesday. JEAN-FRANCOIS BADIAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

After months of fruitless negotiations with the Greek government, the skeptical European creditor states have said they want to see a detailed, cost-accounted plan of the reforms by Thursday. That is meant to give the creditors enough time to review the plan before leaders of the European Union's 28 countries meet on Sunday in what has been termed as Greece's last chance to stay in the euro.

In the letter, the Greek government said it was aiming to be able to finance itself once the new aid program is over in three years.

Without a deal, Greece faces an almost inevitable collapse of the banking system, which would be the first step for the country to fall out of the euro.

Markets are holding up despite the apparent ultimatum, with many investors predicting a last-minute deal. The Stoxx 50 index closed up 1 per cent.

"Guarded optimism is the theme today, as the eurozone gives Greece one final deadline," said Chris Beauchamp, senior market analyst at IG in London.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, addressing lawmakers at the European Parliament, said his country is seeking a deal that would bring a definitive end to his country's financial crisis. Greece has had two bailouts from its European partners and the International Monetary Fund since May 2010, totalling 240 billion euros ($260 billion).

"We need to ensure the medium-term funding of our country with a development and growth program," Tsipras told lawmakers in Strasbourg, France.

The head of France's central bank said he feared the "collapse" of the Greek economy and "chaos" if Greece doesn't strike a deal by Sunday.

In unusually strong language, Christian Noyer told Europe-1 radio he predicted "riots" in Greece if no deal is reached.

He also indicated the European Central Bank would effectively pull the plug on its emergency liquidity measures for Greek banks if no deal is struck.

Greece's main business and tourism associations predicted an "explosion of unemployment" if no deal is reached.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HUNGARY

Posters parody 'hate' ads

Hundreds of crowd-funded derisive billboards with messages like "Sorry for our prime minister" and "Come to Hungary, we've got jobs in London" have been plastered across the country to counter the Hungarian government's anti-immigration campaign.

Gergely Kovacs, president of the humorous Two-Tailed Dog Party, said Wednesday that over 7,000 people donated 33.3 million forints ($115,000) for the campaign organized jointly with Atlatszo.hu, a group of investigative journalists. "We would like to offset the government's hate campaign," Kovacs said while standing near a billboard saying "I survived the Hungarian anti-immigration campaign!"

Facing an unprecedented number of migrants and refugees — 73,000 so far this year — Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government rejects most economic immigrants and has put up billboards with slogans like "If you come to Hungary, you cannot take Hungarians' jobs."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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First accuser not in show biz

BILL COSBY

Andrea Constand defies Cosby's narrative

Bill Cosby has painted many of his accusers as star-struck gold-diggers — aspiring models and actresses trying to shake him down to get ahead in Hollywood.

Yet the first woman known to have told police she was drugged and violated by the comedian was a college basketball administrator in Philadelphia who initially asked only for an apology from the man she regarded as her mentor and friend.

Andrea Constand — whose 2005 lawsuit produced damning testimony from Cosby that was released by a court this week — stands out among the dozens of women who later accused the comedian of sexual assault, and not just because she helped set off the torrent of allegations that have shattered his nice-guy image as TV's Dr. Cliff Huxtable.

Constand was not in show biz and had not been exposed to the 1970s-era sex-and-drug scene in Las Vegas and Hollywood. In 2004, she was a former college athlete whose childhood dream had been to become the first Canadian woman to play professional basketball.

"She's a person of integrity, and if there is a wrong, she's going to stand up for it and do the right thing and be a leader," said Joan Bonvinci, who was her coach at the University of Arizona, where Constand helped lead the team to victory in the 1996 National Women's Invitational Tournament.

A decade ago, Constand, then 30, was finishing a third year as operations director of the Temple University women's team and thinking about leaving the sport.

Constand had met Cosby, Temple's most famous alumnus and sports fan, in 2002 and frequently socialized with him, sometimes at dinner parties and sometimes alone, at restaurants or his large suburban home. He invited her for one such dinner on Jan. 4, 2004, to offer her career advice, according to court papers.

According to her account, Constand described how stressed she was about the career decision, and Cosby gave her three pills to help her relax. She took them with water and thought they were herbal supplements, according to her lawsuit.

She said she woke up the next morning sore, with her clothes askew and a vague memory of being fondled.

Cosby, questioned under oath, identified the pills as the cold and allergy medicine Benadryl — something Constand's lawyer doubts would have left the six-foot Constand "semi-conscious" on a couch until 4 a.m.

She disclosed the encounter to her parents in January 2005. She and her mother called him to demand an apology, which they got, according to the lawsuit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DISNEY WORLD BILL COSBY STATUE REMOVED Local news outlets reported that Walt Disney World officials removed a bust of actor and comedian Bill Cosby from display at Hollywood Studios theme park in Orlando, Fla. late Tuesday. The removal came after court documents unsealed on Monday revealed that Cosby testified in 2005 that he obtained Quaaludes with the intent of giving them to women he wanted to have sex with. PATRICK MAIRS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Detroit-area police hunt for big-time nut robber

Police in Detroit are having a little fun while asking for help in figuring out who swiped roughly 28,000 pounds of packaged nuts.

Police say a truck and trailer packed with 18 pallets of walnuts and other nuts were taken the weekend of June 27. Police say the truck and trailer were found July 1, but the nuts worth more than $128,000 were gone.

The department on Tuesday issued an appeal for information on Facebook — posting a mug shot of a squirrel along with details. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Woman arrested after calling 911 to complain about Chinese food order

An Ohio woman has been arrested after calling 911 to complain about an order of Chinese food. Police say the 44-year-old woman called 911 to say the Chinese food she ordered from a local restaurant was "not up to par for her liking."

She was arrested and charged with misuse of 911, a misdemeanour. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Fitness tracker interest wanes

HEALTH

Sales are strong for devices like Fitbit, but users lose enthusiasm

Sales for fitness trackers such as Basis Peak, Adidas Fit Smart, Fitbit Charge, Sony Smartband and Jawbone Move have been strong, but a research firm says a third of users lose enthusiasm for them after six months. BEBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deepak Jayasimha's fitness tracker is now with his father-in-law in India, where it sits unused. Annabel Kelly foisted hers off on the kids. Virginia Atkinson took hers off to charge the battery and hasn't picked it up since February.

Although sales of Fitbit and other fitness trackers are strong, many of their owners lose enthusiasm for them once the novelty of knowing how many steps they've taken wears off. One research firm, Endeavour Partners, estimates that about one third of these trackers get abandoned after six months. A health care investment fund, Rock Health, says Fitbit's regulatory filings suggest only half of Fitbit's nearly 20 million registered users were still active as of the first quarter of 2015.

"The question for investors is how long the market will continue to grow at this rate, and whether Fitbit can execute on growing engagement before ... the number of devices sold per year reaches saturation," Malay Gandhi, a managing director at Rock Health, wrote on a blog.

Abandonment affects all manufacturers of fitness trackers, which are relatively cheap at about $100 and are commonly given as gifts. Fitbit gets the spotlight because it started trading publicly last month and has 76 per cent of the U.S. market share by revenue, up from 64 per cent a year earlier, according to the NPD Group. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Sherson Group files for bankruptcy protection

Shoe distributor Sherson Group Inc., which operates Nine West retail stores in Canada, has filed for bankruptcy protection with the Ontario Superior Court.

Court documents say the Toronto-based company owes $32.2 million to more than 60 different suppliers, lenders and businesses.

Included on the list is $4.7 million owed in loans to the Bank of Montreal and $19.1 million to Nine West Group Inc., the New York-based company which licences its name to Sherson Group. THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

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TSX
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OIL
$51.65 US (-$0.68)

GOLD
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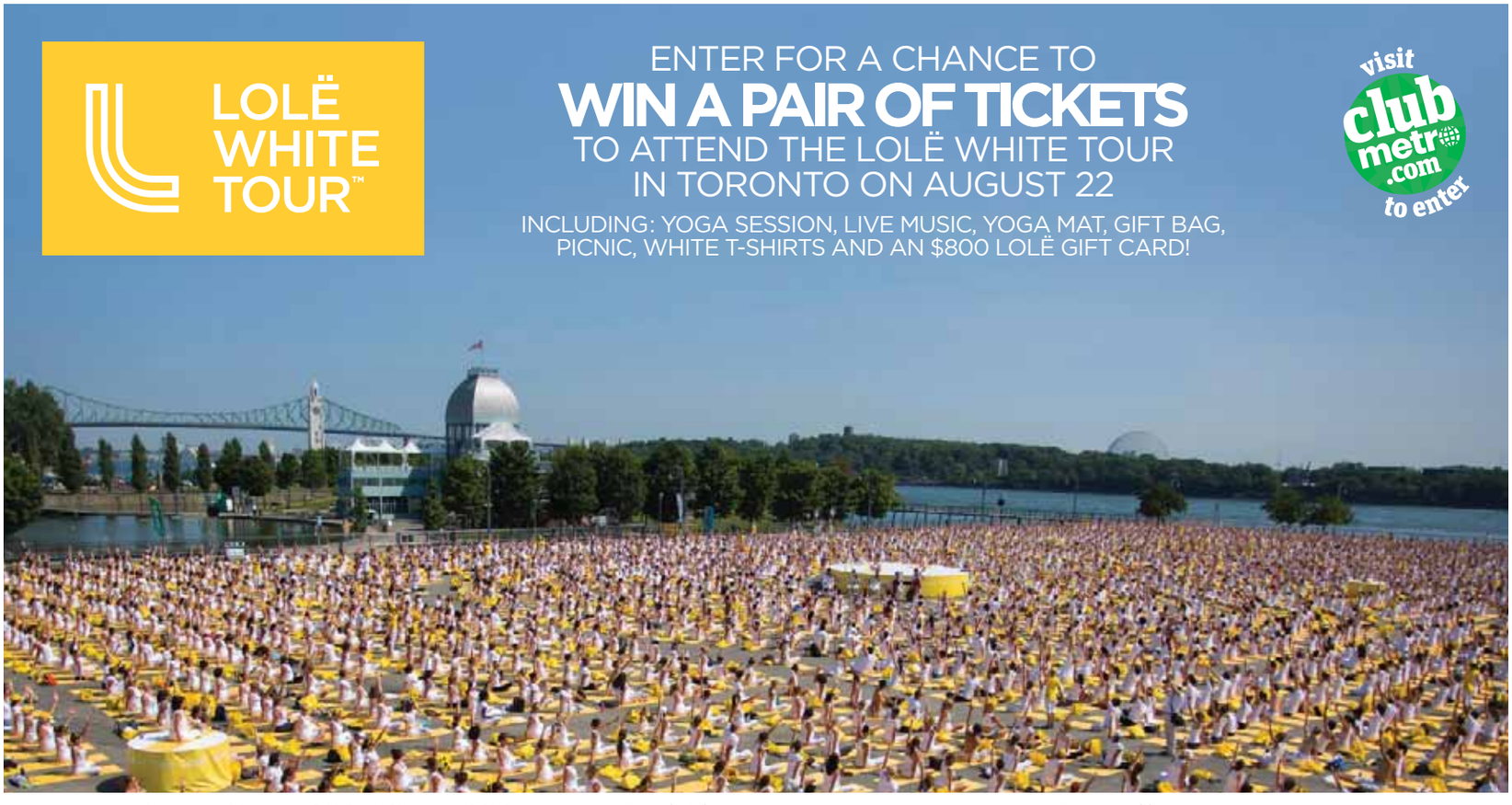
NATURAL GAS: $2.685US (-3.1¢)
DOW JONES: 17,515.42 (-261.49)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Thursday, July 9, 2015

URBAN ETIQUETTE: ELLEN VANSTONE

THE QUESTION

Is there a 'side' to sidewalks? And other foot-traffic dilemmas solved, just in time for summer tourists or Pan Am crowds to hit the streets near you.

Wyndham Lewis, in his 1954 novel Self Condemned, famously called Toronto a "sanctimonious icebox." But Lewis was a notorious misanthrope who also said, "It is more comfortable for me, in the long run, to be rude than polite" — so you can guess what I think of him.

The point is that present-day Toronto, like all cities across Canada, is a much friendlier burg than the dull, mainly Anglo-Saxon centre he once despised. And now is the chance to prove it while Hogtown hosts some 250,000 visitors expected at the Pan Am Games from July 10 to 26.

Yes, the invading hordes are bound to test our patience as they clog up pedestrian thoroughfares with their rubbernecking, sightseeing, dawdling ways. But it's also a perfect opportunity to show off our Canadian politeness — and for me to remind you, dear reader, on proper pedestrian behaviour. Herewith, a refresher course on the basic rules of street etiquette.

Is there a "side" to sidewalks?

People generally keep to the right, but all bets are off when dealing with strangers from strange lands where our right-of-way rules might not apply. When faced with oncoming meanderers, do a quick shoulder-check, step aside and let them pass. If you and your companion favour an old-fashioned approach, walk on the curbside if you're male, a tradition that once saved ladies' dresses from mud-spattering vehicles.

Slow walkers

Few things are more frustrating that being stuck behind a gaggle of molasses-waders when you're in a hurry. But it's perfectly all right to pass — as long as you do it without elbowing anyone aside.

Close walkers

Don't walk too closely behind anyone, breathing down his or her neck. If they stop suddenly, it's your neck that will suffer when you collide and go flying. This goes double at night, when close walking behind people, especially women, makes them feel threatened. The proper procedure in the dark is to speak up ("Hey, don't be alarmed — I'm just passing on your left") as you make a wide berth around them.

Yes, invading hordes are bound to test our patience. But it's also a perfect opportunity to show off our Canadian politeness.

Stopping for no reason

This is my pet peeve — people who stop at the top or bottom of stairs while the rest of us pile up behind them, or those who languidly exit a store without checking for oncoming foot traffic. It's always tempting to "accidentally" bump into them, ensuring they'll think twice next time they fail to merge properly. But to do so would be passive-aggressive, which is the worst kind of rudeness.

Cellphone addicts

Everybody knows that texting while driving is dangerous. It's also ill-advised while walking on a busy street. Staring at your phone as you blunder down the sidewalk or cross an intersection is asking for a collision.

Getting into a car or cab

Traditionally, the man opens the door for the woman before going around and getting in the other side. As a modern feminist, I never resent the old-fashioned gesture, but it's not de rigueur, and it's an outright faux pas if the woman finds it overly quaint. If your companion is older, however, it's always more polite — regardless of sex — to offer them the near-side door and then schlep to the far side so they don't have to slide across the hot, sticky seat to make room for you.

Entering and exiting store doors — who has the right of way?

Short answer: no one. Well-mannered folk will let the other person through regardless of direction, though admittedly there's a risk of getting stuck when you hold a door open for one person and 20 more follow. At some point, you may gracefully hand off the door to some other paragon of politeness and slip through a gap — as long as you don't slam the door in anyone's face while you're at it.

Revolving doors

It will surprise some readers to learn that a gentleman traditionally goes through first, a holdover from the days when women were deemed too weak to push the heavy mechanism themselves. The same rule applied to going down steps or exiting a plane, train or bus: if the lady tripped on her petticoats, the man in front would provide a cushion to her fall. Nowadays, it doesn't matter which gender takes the lead — as long as you don't cut anyone off.

Most importantly, be nice

The best advice comes from Emily Post, who wrote the book on manners in 1922. Some of her dictates were ridiculous ("Ladies should carefully avoid … all undue liveliness in public"). But her overall rule is still absolutely relevant: Never do anything that is unpleasant to others.

CARTOON BY ANI CASTILLO

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Great adventures make great stories: Balloon man proves it

Now there's a story.

A man sits in a plastic lawn chair attached to 100 helium balloons and floats over the Calgary Stampede grounds, in a bid to earn more business for his cleaning company by landing in the middle of the chuckwagon races.

The winds pick up, he's getting pulled off course (not that he has any contraption to keep him on course; he's on a lawn chair). As the balloons lift him higher and higher, he opts for plan B, jumps, uh, chair, and pulls chute.

Descending with a parachute, he escapes with a rolled ankle and a mischief charge. There were hundreds of thousands of people below this guy, police told the newspapers. "The last thing we want to see is anybody injured."

Or to translate: "The last thing we want to see is anybody do anything interesting." Police, our uniformed spoilsports.

But I'm with balloon man, aka Dan Boria, on this one: "It was the most fun thing I've ever done."

And it's the best "This one time…" story I've heard in awhile. The kind of story that you recount in your 80s to pick up ladies at the retirement home. The kind of story your kids tell your grandkids.

You know what doesn't make the memory books? Always following the rules.

My parents are in town for a visit. I wouldn't call them daredevils, but then you get Dad talking about the time he sailed the Atlantic and hitchhiked across Europe.

There were the nights he figured out how to unlock London's double-decker buses, and sneaked in for a good sleep. There was the time he rescued his scooter from a mechanic's lot in France. He used to build his own boats (using his mum's best sheets).

When you're older, and the days pass with more mirrored regularity, and maybe you've lost the youthful gall to fly by helium balloons, the best things you've got are the stories of your life.

I'm already afraid for how boring I'll be. CBC Radio's Definitely Not the Opera is always looking for story submissions. "When did being mistaken for something you're not let you discover who you really are?" or "When did a musical instrument change your life?" or "Tell us your stories about body art!" The questions arrive every week by email. And every week, I've got nothing.

So, I clearly need to up my story-game, and I think I could take inspiration from Boria. Especially the part where he lives to tell the tale.

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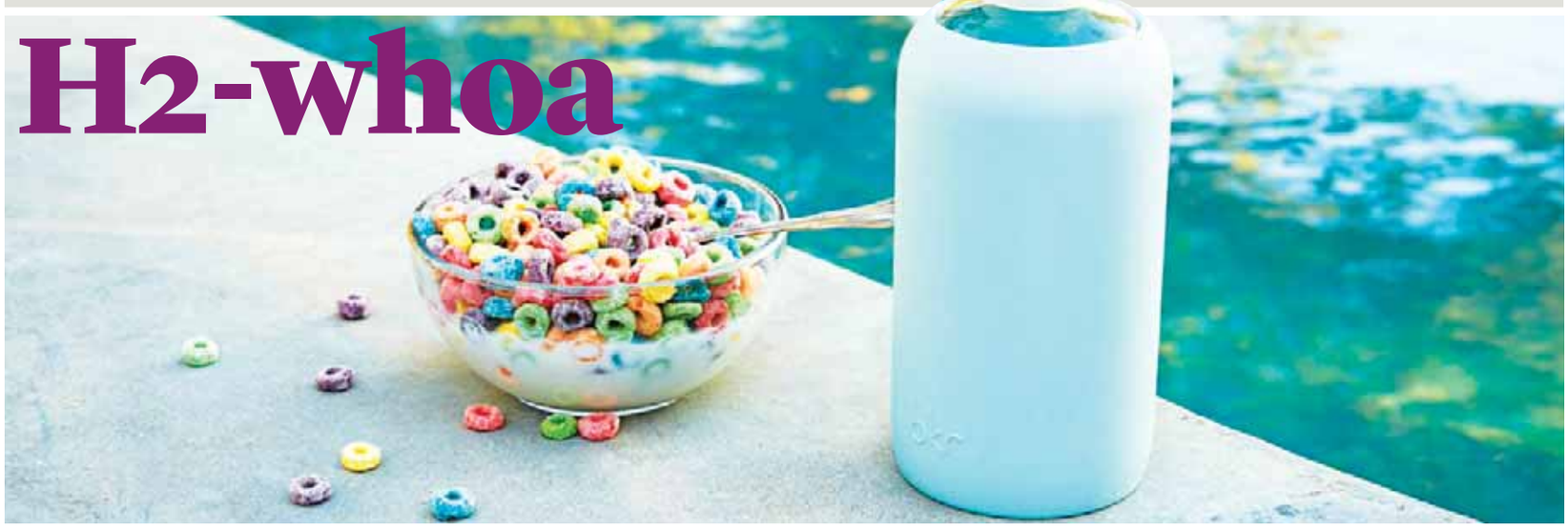

ACCESSORIES

Plastic water bottles are so '90s — invest in one of these beauties

Melissa Dunne
For Metro | Life

The It Accessory of Summer 2015 isn't a beach bag, or a pair of sunnies or cute sandals — it's a reusable water bottle.

Yes, the lowly utilitarian item's time has finally come again. Not that long ago, people didn't carry water around with them everywhere they went (I know, wild, right?).

Then, at some point in the '90s it became tres passé to carry around bottled water, you know, because of the environment. Nalgene bottles were all the rage, for a while. But plastic bottles, whether one-time use or reusable, really went out of style when there was a groundswell of worry over BPA in the late 2000s.

Enter S'well et al. While people were so over plastic (though many are now made BPA-free), there remained a thirst for bottles that are safe and stylish. Reusable bottles that keep your drinks cold are so cool right now, they are being featured in the likes of Vogue. The fashion bible featured a black S'well bottle in a list of items to put in a Céline Curve bag. We say save yourself about $2,356 for the cost of that It Bag and buy yourself an It Bottle instead. While the S'well bottle is a hefty $39.50 for the 500 ml, you'll quickly make your money back filling your bottle with tap water, rather than buying one-time use bottles for a few bucks a pop.

Here are some of the most stylish bottles for sale this summer:

S'WELL

These stainless-steel bottles come in a rainbow of sizes and colours, from Pink Satin to Teakwood. Get one to match every outfit. Swellbottle.com. $39. 50 for a 500 ml bottle

ASOBU

The Flavour It 2 Go bottle is BPA free and lets you add in fresh fruit to the built-in infuser. asobubottle.com. $13 for a 590 ml bottle

BKR

The glass and silicone bottles come with quirky names, such as the Lolita in opaque blackberry. mybkr.com. $33 for a 500 ml bottle

VAPUR

The Anti-Bottle bottle is perfect for the fit fashionista, it stands upright when full and flattens when empty, so you can stash it away (not that you'd want to). vapur.ca. $16 for a 1 L bottle

HIGHLIGHT OF PARIS FASHION WEEK

Stars sparkle in Dior garden

Celebrities such as Lupita Nyong'o, Emily Blunt and Canadian singer Claire Elise Boucher a.k.a. Grimes sparkled in the heat at Christian Dior's vivid couture show set in a timeless conservatory in Paris.

It was the highlight of Monday's fall-winter 2015-16 Paris Fashion Week shows, which also included Schiaparelli. Lupita Nyong'o looked ravishing in a short, cherry red Dior couture dress Monday, and was at a loss for words on entering Christian Dior's "The Garden of Earthly Delights" show set inside the Rodin Museum. Guests ventured with trepidation on entering the huge, abstract painted conservatory garden that featured myriad multicoloured panels — and some even tripped on the giant coloured fruit scattered around the floor.

"It's really cool," the actress said, looking around in amazement from her spot next to U.S. Vogue Editor Anna Wintour. "It's so incredible. I think I need to take a moment!"

Emily Blunt — in a simple, white knee-length Dior gown — was equally amazed.

"This is just extraordinary. This is kind of why I would walk from London to Paris to see this show. I'm so excited," she said.

The only thing she regretted about her trip was a lack of sufficient planning for France's soaring temperatures, which have recently hit 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit).

"I mean, I fry like an egg," she said. "So I'm feeling like I should have put on more sunscreen. Or a higher factor."

Dior's sweltering conservatory decor may well have contributed to the overheating. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

From left to right, Emily Blunt, Lupito Nyong'o and Grimes. GETTY IMAGES

FASHION POLL RED COAT

Metro asked which red coat from Paris Couture Week you like better?

Christian Dior's

Schiaparelli's

Here are the results of our online poll:

29% **71%**

GAMBLING ON PARIS COUTURE

Chanel celebrity roulette

Chanel's guests were led to their seats in a giant recreated casino Tuesday inside Paris' Grand Palais — replete with roulette tables and fully-functioning gambling machines that had one Chinese fashionista addicted within minutes.

But the real gasps came when Kristen Stewart and a diamond-encrusted Julianne Moore, shown at right, walked out through an arch — both wearing bespoke Chanel couture — to take a seat around a celebrity-filled poker table in the centre of the catwalk. There they hugged, chatted, gambled and laughed all through the show.

Moore and Stewart grew close as they co-starred in Still Alice, playing mother and daughter. They both dined together in an exclusive Paris restaurant last weekend.

"I like people when they're gambling and well dressed like in Monte Carlo," said Lagerfeld.

Fellow gamblers placing bets included singers Rita Ora and Vanessa Paradis and model Lara Stone, who were there to showcase Chanel's latest jewelry collection. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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At Paris Fashion Week

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RAF SIMONS

Dior's time machine

In a surreal garden setting, Dior designer Raf Simons wove his creative needle in and out through different centuries. That produced an imaginative time-travel of a couture show, which riffed on the styles of the Flemish Masters, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

The large fruit props on the runway conjured up scenes from historic still-life oil paintings.

Long diaphanous column silhouettes in chiffon, like medieval undergarments, floated by elegantly alongside gowns with high-cinched waists and wide, billowing sleeves that mirrored the old Flemish styles. Some bejewelled net gilets were worn on the torso, evoking chainmail in a beautiful touch.

The sense of chic time-travel was further heightened with delicate dots and patterns on the fabrics — designs that evoked the French Impressionists and the technique of Pointillism associated with artists like Georges Seurat. The coats were the highest point of this strong collection, with one standout: a flame-red coat with beautifully large tubular cuffs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERTRAND GUYON

Schiaparelli evokes the '30s

Celebrity guests including Meg Ryan were swept away to the glamour of 1930s theatre life at Bertrand Guyon's debut collection for Schiaparelli.

And what better a setting than to start exploring the theatricality of the great couturier Elsa? Famed for inventing shocking pink and having collaborations with Surrealists like Salvador Dali, Coco Chanel's hated rival Schiaparelli was one of the greatest and most colourful Parisian designers of the '20s and '30s. The house was recently revived.

In an impressive recreated theatre, Guyon's models hearkened back to another era. Fastidiously embellished '30s Orientalist satin jackets had softly square shoulders. Silk "jabot" collars and voluminous "Duster" coats wafted by with exaggerated pockets, alongside bejewelled eye, star and key lock decorations.

Guyon even referenced the mania for Grecian looks in Schiaparelli's heyday in a couple of diaphanous column dresses with flashes of gold.

Not all the theatrical exuberance worked, especially one overly clashing multicoloured mink coat. But Guyon is certainly moving the house in a welcome, more coherent direction since the departure last year of designer Marco Zanini. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KARL LAGERFELD

Chanel's 3D quilting and '80s shoulders

Karl Lagerfeld, 81, says the secret to feeling young is always looking to the future. Nothing demonstrated this better than Chanel's bright, high-tech couture show that featured Coco Chanel's famed skirt-suit jacket made via 3D printing.

"I like the idea of taking the most iconic jacket of the 20th century and turning that into an object that was impossible to make when that jacket was invented," explained the couturier.

The quilted jackets were completely seamless and seamstress-less — created by feeding Lagerfeld's sketches into a computer program.

A 1980s flavour lingered in the air for fall-winter in a largely black-and-white show, with oversized truncated jackets, large square shoulders, epaulettes and dramatic lapels.

The 67-piece-stong collection mainly played it safe, but designs frothily loosened up toward the end, with tailoring that harked to the fizz fizz years of the '20s. Feathered fringing adorned loose, long cocktail dresses, evoking the famed "Flapper" era. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CANADIAN MUSIC

Music journalist examines four chart-toppers

BOOKWORM

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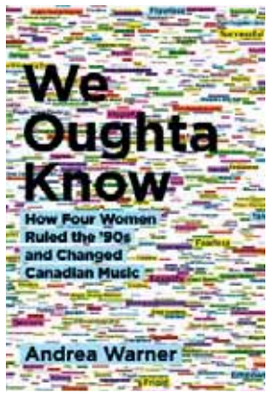

Andrea Warner's latest book, We Oughta Know (inset), looks at women on top. CONTRIBUTED

Twenty years ago, Alanis Morissette stormed onto the music scene with Jagged Little Pill. At the time, the album was considered loud, shockingly honest and "unladylike" — a perfect anthem for a generation of disenfranchised young women who previously felt they had no voice.

The album's anniversary this June time-travelled fans back to the mid-1990s. Jagged Little Pill made a quick two-week reappearance on Billboard's Top 200 album chart.

Across Canada, there have been tribute nights and lots of media analysis of the continued emotional resonance of Morissette's work.

Like so many fans, Vancouver music journalist Andrea Warner, 16 when the album was released, felt empowered by its frankness.

Her debut book, We Oughta Know: How Four Women Ruled the '90s and Changed Canadian Music, examines, from a feminist's perspective, the careers, successes and controversial media personifications of Morissette, along with fellow superstars Shania Twain, Sarah McLachlan and Céline Dion.

When Toronto publisher Eternal Cavalier approached Warner, an associate producer with CBC Music, to write a book, she already had a kernel of an idea.

On sales tracker Nielsen SoundScan, she discovered the four women (all wildly successful by their mid-20s) are among the Top 10 bestselling musicians in Canada. Dion is first place.

To put this in context, the Beatles are at No. 8.

"It made me take stock of the music industry in Canada, and it gave me pause to take stock of my life," Warner says.

"I thought, 'Oh my God, these four women have been part of my existence in such a strange, almost fairy godmother/evil stepmother kind of way for so long.'"

Although Warner connected with Morissette's raw anger and with McLachlan's poetics — the book includes an emotional essay about how McLachlan's album Rarities, B-Sides and Other Stuff helped Warner through the death of her father — her relationship with Dion and Twain was more complex.

> **These four women have been part of my existence ... for so long.**
> Andrea Warner

As a teen, she dismissed Dion as a saccharine pop diva under the spell of her manipulative manager-husband, and Twain as nothing more than a talentless country-crossover Barbie.

"All of these things I ever said about Céline Dion and Shania Twain are completely complicit with preserving sexism and misogyny, and upholding all these horrible things I'm supposedly against," Warner says. "It made me take a look at myself and the worst parts of my personality."

Warner also takes her profession to task, devoting a chapter to the more egregious examples of sexist music journalism, in which the women are referred to, among other terms, as "pinups, "angry young wom[e]n" and "fragile young flowers."

Ultimately, as Warner suggests, you don't have to be a Titanic fan to appreciate Dion's vocal range or to critique Twain's music without referencing those early baremidriff years.

"I think it's so important to pick apart how we build our belief structures," Warner says. "Maybe it's not even about feminism and sexism, but why do we love the things we do? Why do we think something is good versus bad, and how does it feed into what we think is good or bad taste?"

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Wear your heart on your heels

FASHION

Lamar collabs with Reebok on sneakers with soul

One of the hottest and most critically acclaimed rappers of the moment has designed a pair of Reebok sneakers that he hopes will promote peace among L.A.'s gangs.

Lamar signed a partnership deal with Reebok in 2014 and his first set of sneakers will be called the Kendrick Lamar x Reebok Ventilator.

When they go on sale later this month the shoes will carry a multi-coloured message that promotes peace, particularly among the Crips and the Bloods, the two rival gangs that influenced Lamar's childhood growing up in Los Angeles and his conscious rap lyrics.

The sneakers are an off-white 'paperwhite' suede and feature the word 'red' on the right heel and 'blue' on the left heel (a reference to the two gangs' affiliation colors) and the word 'neutral' inscribed under the tongue. AFP

JULY 18
SNEAKERS WILL GO ON SALE FOR $130 US

ARIANA IS OUT!

Lovato steps up to the plate

Demi Lovato has taken over headlining duties from Ariana Grande at this year's Major League Baseball All-Star Game concert, which is apparently a thing.

"I'm so excited to be headlining the MLB All-Star Concert," Lovato says in a statement. "I hope my fans in Cincinnati are ready to get 'Cool for the Summer.'" Real subtle, working the title of your latest single in like that.

It's unclear whether Lovato followed the statement with a pre-planned slip-and-fall.

Grande, for her part, had to bow out of the gig because she recently got her wisdom teeth removed. And here I thought it was because of that whole doughnut-licking, "I hate Americans" video snafu she's dealing with. NED EHRBAR FOR METRO

LAMBERT CANCELS STAMPEDE; THE VIEW'S REVOLVING DOOR

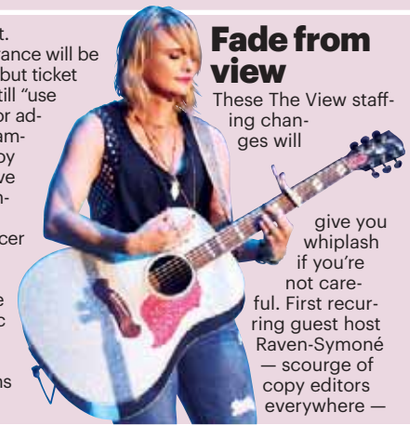
No bull

It's hard out there for professional singers these days, with vocal cords acting up left and right, causing all sorts of tour disruptions.

The latest victim? Miranda Lambert, who had to dash plans for her upcoming Calgary gig due to "serious inflammation" of her vocal cords, according to her Facebook page.

"I'm so sorry that I can't be at Stampede this week, but I'll be back in Calgary just as soon as I can for all of my Stampede fans," she said in a statement.

The appearance will be rescheduled, but ticket holders can still "use their tickets for admission to Stampede and enjoy all that we have to offer," Stampede's chief operating officer Paul Rosenberg said, "including live country music at Nashville North." Just, you know, sans Lambert.



Fade from view

These The View staffing changes will give you whiplash if you're not careful. First recurring guest host Raven-Symoné — scourge of copy editors everywhere — was tapped for a permanent spot on the daytime chat panel. Then this week word leaked that newly added Rosie Perez would be leaving the show at the end of her first season in August.

Everyone first had to come to terms with the realization that The View is a show with "seasons" before even more news arrived: Comedian and recurring guest-host Michelle Collins is being made a full-time member of the show.

So ... good for her? Now, is anyone still actually watching? NED EHRBAR FOR METRO

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Slow season means busy fall

REAL ESTATE

Pan Am Games plus summer means quieter time for agents

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister

Artist Douglas Coupland.
CONTRIBUTED

Toronto real-estate agent Ralph Fox says downtown traffic is so congested that agents will be looking to hire private drivers, as they do in New York City.

"Because the transportation is becoming so difficult, the only way that they can manage their clients and manage time and manage parking is to hire drivers."

Fox says it's a stressful undertaking to show five or six condos downtown. It means navigating congestion, finding parking at $10 a pop, locating the lockbox, dealing with surly concierges, all the while focusing on prospective clients.

"You might start to see brokerages having their own driver that agents book as an in-house service."

Architectural critic Christopher Hume recently commented in The Toronto Star that the Pan Am Games will be an interesting experiment for Toronto. The massive increase in vehicular traffic descending on the city will be an insight to what Toronto could be like permanently in the not-too-distant future.

"For agents, it's abnormally slow in the city right now," explains Fox. "A lot of them are away because of the Games and you have summer on top of it."

But look to a busy autumn for real estate as a result.

"Some of the listings that would have come out now will be put over until the fall. I think there will be a pent-up push in September as a backlash to that."

Dog park amenity

In other news, residents of River City condos in the West Don Lands will soon have exclusive use of Emma Park, a 4,360 sq. ft. bone-shaped dog park that's set for completion in 2017. The off-leash facility will be a fenced-in zone of resilient, crunchy pea gravel with whimsical fire hydrant installations adding to the charm.

It's named after Urban Capital co-founder David Wex's beloved former pug and designed by internationally renowned landscape architect Claude Cormier.

Dog owners at River City condos in West Don Lands will be able to use a 4,360 sq. ft. dog park, due for completion in 2017.

The new amenity was launched at a recent public celebration with free portraits of pooches by a professional pet photographer and puppy "paw print art."

Public art

Meanwhile, Emerald City Condominiums has unveiled its public art display at Sheppard and Don Mills, featuring a series of three landscape sculpture works by renowned Canadian artist Douglas Coupland.

The first collection of forms is titled The Four Seasons, an abstracted series of tall cones that form a mountain range that runs through Emerald City's northwest corner.

"The colours depict a friendly familiar landscape that speaks to a universal experience of growing up in Canada," says Coupland.

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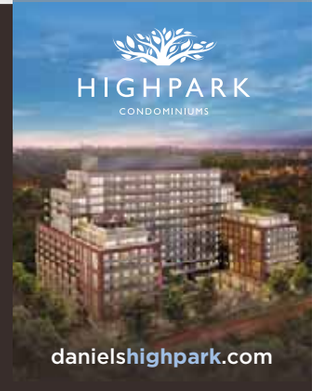

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What they're a$king

OUR CITY

Some things are better new, and there's nothing nicer than a gleaming new condo suite. Here's a look at medium-sized, brand new one-bedroom units near downtown

Duncan McAllister
FOR METRO

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Toronto

Featured is a 667 sq.-ft. unit, overlooking Forest Hill. The Barrington Condominium Flats at 1486 Bathurst St. is introducing new suite designs and pricing in the St. Clair residential area, which is undergoing an urban renaissance. There are two new suite groupings: The London Flats and The Knightsbridge Collection. The Barrington is near the St. Clair West subway and has a walk score of 98 and a bike score of 88. Contact the sales centre at 416-410-4444 or email info@barringtoncondos.com.

$422,900

Vancouver

You can get a 661 sq.-ft. one bedroom plus den in Altus, the second phase of the SOLO District condo project in Burnaby, a suburb of Vancouver. The development will feature retailers and exclusive amenities, including a rooftop patio, multi-sport court, media centre, outdoor lounge with barbecue and fireplace, and a fitness studio. Contact the sales centre at 604-227-3745 or email info@solodistrict.com.

$439,900

Ottawa

Here's a 756 sq.-ft. one bedroom plus den suite in the new Rideau tower in the centre of Ottawa. Minto@lansdowne is comprised of two highrise condominium towers with a collection of suites and townhomes, close to new retail and dining experiences, with entertainment spaces throughout the park and a large outdoor skating rink. Contact the sales office at 613-788-2784 or visit minto.com.

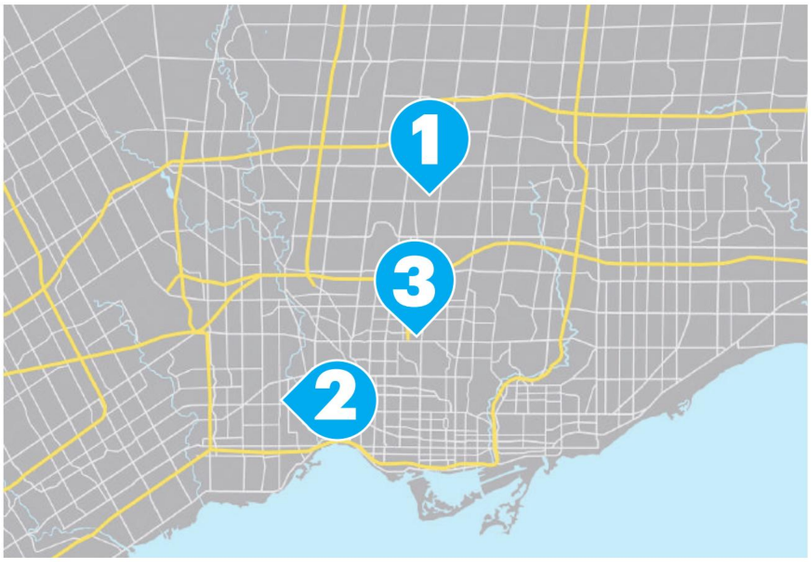
$398,000

Halifax

The Roy, a contemporary 22-storey condominium, is in the centre of downtown Halifax. The building offers three units at 743 sq. ft.: The Canadian, The Scotia and The Royal. The historic development by Starfish Properties will feature the work of Page + Steele IBI Group Architects and interior designs by UNION31. Contact the sales centre at 902-431-1650 or e-mail info@theroyhalifax.com.

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market



DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1 WILLOWDALE

Open house: View this rental suite at Continental condos. With two bedrooms and one bathroom, the semi-furnished suite will be available Sept. 1. Go to 509 Beecroft Rd. on Saturday, 1-4 p.m.

CONTACT: PAMELA J. SIMONS, 416-540-4641

2 ISLINGTON

Sales event: Tridel is continuing its grand opening at Islington Terrace condos on Bloor Street West at the Islington subway station. Check out the presentation centre at 3326 Bloor St. W.

CONTACT: 416-645-8862, TRIDEL.COM

3 ALLENBY

Open house: Here's a fine three-plus-one bedroom home in the Allenby neighbourhood near Yonge and Eglinton. Head over to 141 Latimer Ave. on Saturday, 2-4 p.m.

CONTACT: DAVID BATORI, 416-484-9444

Home ownership aids low-income families

Bryan Tuckey

While the price of new homes continues to increase, home ownership is slipping out of reach for many first-time buyers. This is an important issue that significantly affects our society, and especially impacts young GTA residents.

A recent study by Habitat for Humanity Canada explored the effect home ownership brings to a low-income family's life. It found that for low-income families, owning a home contributes to improved economic stability, children's education and overall health, plus broader societal benefits, as well.

Throughout the study — which was commissioned to quantify the impact generated by the Habitat program on families and society — the positive effect of home ownership was made clear across a wide variety of indicators. It showed that owning a home provides stability for families, resulting in a higher level of well-being.

BILD and its members are strong believers in the value of home ownership, which is why we partnered with Habitat for Humanity GTA more than a decade ago to help build homes for low-income families. BILD has been a proud community partner of the organization since 2003, helping build a home for a partner family each year.

This week, BILD members gathered to raise money for our 12th Habitat home — our first in York Region. More than 500 professionals from the land-development, home-building and professional renovation industries joined forces to raise money for this year's partner family, and I look forward to welcoming them into their new home later this year.

The partnership is a perfect fit because much like Habitat, we are also in the business of building homes.

In the GTA, owning a home has become a challenge, not just for low-income families but for all GTA residents, as the cost of new homes has more than doubled in the last decade. Those most affected are first-time buyers and new Canadians who have to spend years saving up for a down payment.

> **Owning a home contributes to improved economic stability.**

Are you experiencing challenges buying a new home in the GTA? Please share your story on BILD's official blog at bildblogs.ca and posting in the comments section.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (BILD) AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

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ADVICE

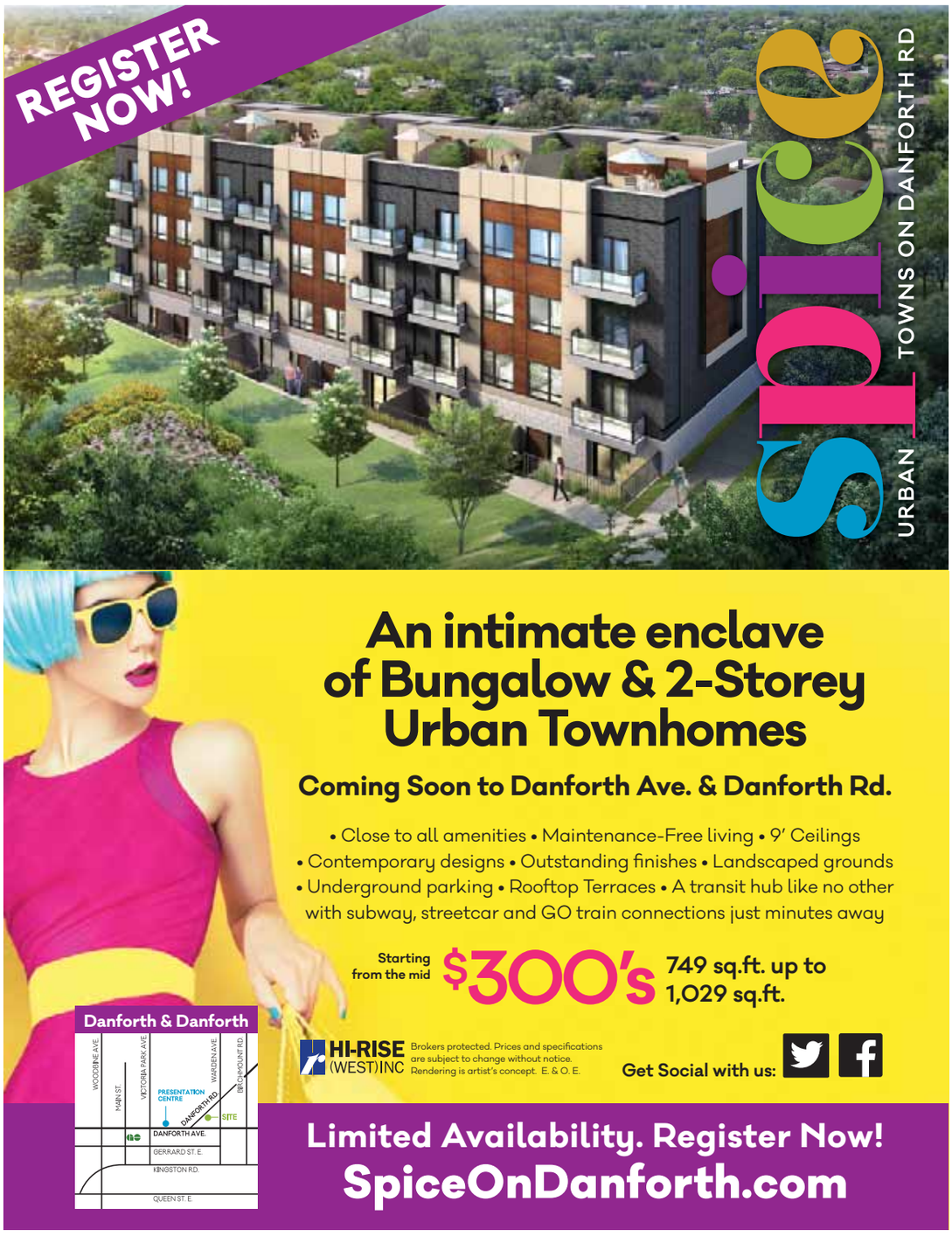
Water heater rental surprises buyer

LEGAL MATTERS

Jeffrey Cowan

Q: We recently purchased a resale home and discovered the property had a rental water heater that was going to cost $45 per month. We were given the assumption agreement by our lawyer on closing day and were surprised at the cost and the fact the rental contract runs until 2022. We plan on living in the home for a couple of years and hopefully then redevelop the property with a new building on the large lot. Are we stuck with the heater?

A: In most agreements of purchase and sale there is a section that outlines if there are any rental items that accompany the purchase of the property. Usually the real-estate agent will indicate "hot water heater — if assumable." I checked with these buyers and the heater that had only recently been installed is one of those new instant water heaters that are energy efficient and also more expensive than a conventional hot water heater. As they agreed in the contract to assume (or in other words, to take over) the rental of the hot water heater, they are contractually bound to either pay the rental fee until the contract expires or pay the amount to outright purchase the heater. Purchasers should be careful about rental items included, or not included, in their agreements of purchase and sale and make sure they know the cost of these items before they sign on the dotted line.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CONTRIBUTED

150 Redpath: all you need

Project overview

Joining its sister site, 155 Redpath, this new development will offer townhomes, condos, lofts, and penthouse units in a building that caters to residents' every need, day or night. The podium creates a strong street edge that is harmonious with the existing midrise architecture.

Building amenities

Built for a 24/7 lifestyle, 150 Redpath will offer amenities spread over two floors. There will be an outdoor infinity pool and hot tub and barbecues with private dining areas. Indoors will be a fitness facility, a party room with kitchen and bar and a dining and lounge area.

NEED TO KNOW

What: 150 Redpath condominiums
Builder: Capital Developments and Freed Developments
Location: 150 Redpath Ave.
Building: A 38-storey building with 543 units
Sizes: From 331 to 1,403 sq. ft.
Pricing: From $199,900 to more than $1 million
Suites: Studio, one bedroom, one bedroom plus den, two bedroom, two bedroom plus den, three bedroom plus den
Status: Registration, pre-construction
Occupancy: Fall 2018
Sales centre: 2239 Yonge St.
Info: redpathcondos.com, 416-996-5428

Location and transit

The building will be located near the bustling corner of Yonge and Eglinton, an enviable location with a walk score of 95. TTC bus routes, the Eglinton subway station and the new Eglinton Crosstown LRT will be at your door.

In the neighbourhood

This highly walkable neighbourhood has everything downtown has to offer: big box and unique independent shops, a new Loblaws, a flagship LCBO around the corner and a myriad of gastronomic choices, from Americano to Zucchini flowers. The building will also have its own 24-hour diner on the ground floor.

Pattern holds clue to colour

DESIGN CENTRE

Karl Lohnes

An old-time decorating secret answers a reader's colour decor question

Q: I recently moved into my new condo and am ready to decorate. What comes first: the paint colours or the furnishings? — S. Stein, Toronto.

A: Here's the decorator secret to choosing colours: Choose the largest item that influences pattern or colour for each room, then take inspiration for the wall colour from that piece. For instance, in the bathroom it might be a shower curtain, in the living room it might be armchairs and in the bedroom is will most likely be the bedding or a carpet. By choosing a paint colour that is the third colour in any pattern, you will create a balanced room for adding colour. If you are choosing items that don't have a variety of colours, then you will be decorating in monochromatic style. Monochromatic (using one colour) does not have to be boring — just remember to use darker and lighter tones in order to create interest in the room. Here are three great examples.

ABOVE:
When working with a monochromatic colour scheme, consider adding drama to the walls with a more intense paint colour.
Paint: Sterling Forest, BenjaminMoore.ca.
Pebble Shower Curtain, $20, Simons.ca.
Remember that a monochromatic room does not mean all beige or bland colours.

LEFT:
The third colour that pops least in this chair is deep grey — there's your inspiration for a great backdrop paint colour.
Paint: Burnt Amber, Benjamin Moore Paints.
Grayson Chair, $1,500, CrateAndBarrel.com.
Even though the paint colour is a neutral, its deep tone makes it dramatic and adds an unexpected punch to the walls.

BOTTOM LEFT:
Finding the third most prominent colour in patterned bedding makes for the perfect wall colour.
Paint: Bryant Gold, BenjaminMoore.ca.
Clearly Organic Duvet & Sham, from $30, PotteryBarn.com.
Using this trick is the difference between just painting your walls and making the room look like the decorator was there.

Got a decorating dilemma? E-mail Design Centre at Home@MetroNews.ca

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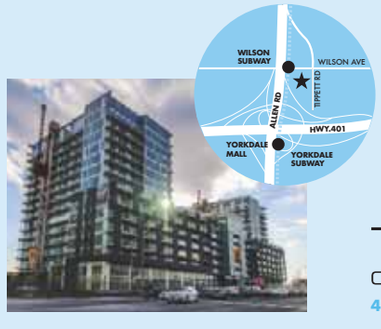

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Did someone say Encore?

Daniels Encore Phase Two coming in September

Three-storey townhomes from Daniels Encore Phase Two, which will be going on sale in September. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

This September, The Daniels Corporation will offer a final built-first performance in Erin Mills by going on sale with Daniels Encore Phase Two.

Already under construction, this exciting new collection of walk-up and two- and three-storey condominium townhomes is attracting overwhelming interest from first-time, move-up and downsizing shoppers. The demand is strong for new home ownership opportunities in Mississauga, and prospective homebuyers realize that Phase Two offers their last chance to own a brand new, fully built Daniels residence in the neighbourhood. Now is the time to register for the preview sales event in September, which promises to be yet another Daniels hit.

By building before going on sale, Daniels offers buyers major advantages.

"They appreciate being able to tour a model of each condominium townhome before deciding on just the right design for their needs, rather than trying to envision the finished product from floor plans," says Daniels vice-president Don Pugh. "They can see, touch and feel the Daniels difference. Once their choice is made, they can move in to their brand new home as early as 30, 60 or 90 days, which is rare in the new home marketplace."

Those who attend the preview event can also tour the community, which features a playground and will soon be home to resident gardening plots.

On top of all of this, homeowners at Daniels Encore Phase Two will live at Destination Drive and Winston Churchill Boulevard, one of Mississauga's most desirable neighbourhoods. The area is thriving with amenities such as shops, restaurants, schools, recreation centres, the renowned Credit Valley Hospital, and Erin Mills Town Centre, where an incredible $100-million renovation is underway.

High-quality appointments in Daniels' walk-up townhomes include: Smooth finish ceilings in the kitchen/breakfast, laundry and bathrooms; ceramic kitchen backsplash; imported ceramic tile and laminate flooring; and a glass shower enclosure.

The two- and three-storey townhomes will feature all of that plus a granite kitchen countertop, oak staircases, pre-finished hardwood flooring in the living/dining room and/or great room and a soaker tub. Some two-storey townhome designs feature a finished basement with a finished three-piece bathroom.

Walk-up condominium townhomes will be priced from the mid-$200,000s, and two- and three-storey condominium townhomes from the low-$500,000s. Talk about value. Plus, you can buy with just five per cent down, and you can take advantage of Daniels' gradual deposit payment plan. What could be easier?

The Daniels Corporation (danielshomes.ca) is one of Canada's pre-eminent builder/developers, building more than 25,000 new homes across the Greater Toronto Area for 33 years. Daniels has been named Tarion Warranty Corporation's Ontario high rise builder of the year, and is a recipient of the Toronto Arts and Business award presented by the Toronto Arts Foundation.

Among its many initiatives, Daniels was chosen to partner with Toronto Community Housing to revitalize Regent Park — 69 acres in the heart of Toronto's downtown east. Committed to community, Daniels offers innovative programs that help people achieve home ownership, champions neighbourhood initiatives that enhance resident's quality of life, and supports numerous charities and non-profit organizations.

Daniels has a long history of building fine new home communities in Mississauga. Don't miss out on your final opportunity to own a new Daniels built-first townhome in Erin Mills.

Register for Daniels Encore Phase Two by visiting DanielsEncore.com or calling 905-814-0123. Follow Daniels Encore on Facebook and Twitter (@DanielsEncore) for updates.

DANIELS TAKES ITS FINAL BOW

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Easy does it with outdoor accessories

GARDENING

Landscape attractions can be both pretty and functional

Flowers are the face of a garden, providing colour and texture. But a few well-placed landscape accessories can give it character and a dash of personality.

Accessories can range from water fixtures, like ponds and streams, to outdoor furniture and appliances, fountains to statuary, miniature fairy gardens to antiques. Give it some thought, however.

"There's some wonderful stuff out there (to collect) and it's awfully tempting, but you have to be really careful not to overdo it," said Linda Engstrom, a landscape designer from Portland, Ore.

She advises putting no more than two or three items in one area. "It gets too cluttered and the eye doesn't know where to go," she said. "You need some negative space."

Many of those items also can be high maintenance.

Creativity comes into play in finding unused objects, such as these baskets, integrated into a garden near Langley, Wash. DEAN FOSDICK VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

And landscape accessories should fit the architectural style of the home, Engstrom said.

"I had a client once who had a Tudor house but who wanted a Japanese garden. That wasn't such a great idea, but I was able to give her a Japanese-style garden semi-enclosed in the backyard, and it wasn't jarring," she said.

Engstrom doesn't like the trend toward elaborate outdoor living rooms with weatherproof furniture.

"I can't picture leaving that stuff out there in wet or snowy winters," she said. "It's quite a chore to keep it looking nice when placed outside."

Accessories can be used to screen unsightly utility sheds or add some visual flavour to hobby greenhouses, she said.

"Put up a pergola and string it with vines and flowers. Add a fountain or garden seat."

Homemade landscaping objects are becoming fashionable again, said Leonard Perry, an extension professor with the University of Vermont.

"Making your own accessories may be a great way to save money, a fun craft hobby or family activity," Perry said. "Making colourful pavers (stepping stones), either with inlaid objects, designs or leaf impressions, is a great activity to involve children."

Creativity also comes into play finding unusual objects from flea markets, garage sales or your basement, and figuring out how to incorporate them into a garden.

Tastes vary, of course, Perry noted. "What is tacky to some may appear to be a thing of beauty to that gardener or homeowner," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ENLIGHTENING IDEA

Illumination also serves safety purpose

When it comes to landscaping, consider incorporating lighting around the property. For instance, low-voltage lighting enhances safety along walks and driveways, as well as home security. "Up-lighting" tree trunks or creating a lighting "wash" along the side of a home can add focus and drama, said Leonard Perry, an extension professor with the University of Vermont. "Use lights to highlight fountains, plants and containers in full bloom so they can be enjoyed in the evening, too," Perry said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPONSORED CONTENT

Spice comes to life on the Danforth

Spice is an enclave of bungalow and two storey urban towns at the corner of Danforth Avenue and Danforth Road — one of the more colourful and diverse areas of the city.

Here, among the many restaurants, bars, shops, grocery stores, daycares, schools and parks, Spice will be a dash of sophistication with urban towns that feature patios, balconies and rooftop terraces.

The 116 suites will reflect the vibrant nature of the neighbourhood through the creativity and intuition of internationally renown designer Bryon Patton, who has lent his considerable talents to an impressive list of prestigious developments.

Patton has personally selected three colour co-ordinated packages for purchasers to choose from.

Each emphasizes the pleasing textures of rich wood grains, luxurious granite and sleek porcelains to create a current, warm and inviting environment that can be personalized by the purchasers' preferred colour choices.

Spice is all about choice in so many ways. Transit options include the Danforth GO station just two km west with trains going directly downtown and the Bloor subway line, which is accessible from the Warden station just a short walk away.

And, although this energized neighbourhood is filled with diversions, the beauty of the Scarborough Bluffs and the boardwalk along The Beaches are two additional destinations that are within easy reach.

Spice by Hi-Rise Inc. will launch soon. Suites range from 749 – 1,029 sq. ft. Prices start from the mid $300s.

Register now to receive an invitation to the exclusive Preview Opening where you'll have the best selection of suites at pre-construction prices and receive special purchaser incentives.

For more, visit SpiceOnDanforth.com.

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Andre Greipel won Stage 5 of the Tour de France while fellow German Tony Martin kept the overall lead

Living in the 'clutch'

WIMBLEDON

Top three men seeds sail through in straight sets

The top 3 men — Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Andy Murray — cruised into the Wimbledon semi-finals in straight sets. The final four lineup has an unexpected name, too.

Richard Gasquet outlasted French Open champion Stan Wawrinka in a marathon fifth set Wednesday, preventing Wimbledon from having the top four men's seeded players in the semifinals for the first time in 20 years.

Andy Murray, Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer are in the last four
GETTY IMAGES

The 21st-seeded Frenchman overcame the fourth-seeded Swiss 6-4, 4-6, 3-6, 6-4, 11-9, falling onto his back in relief after Wawrinka's backhand went long on the third match point, ending nearly 3-1/2 hours of play.

Gasquet reached the semifinals at the All England Club for the first time since 2007. He will face defending champion Novak Djokovic, who swept past Marin Cilic 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Donaldson is catalyst of Jays' high-leverage heroics

John Gibbons likes to say Josh Donaldson has a "knack" for coming up big when the moment demands it, as if it were an intrinsic part of his character.

The Blue Jays' third baseman has certainly given his manager ample evidence: he already has a pair of walk-off homers, while a full two-thirds of his team-leading 21 home runs this season have either tied the game or given the Jays the lead, as they did on Monday and Tuesday night. Game-changing hits have been a hallmark of the 29-year-old's career, with more than half of his 84 career home runs being tying or go-ahead blasts.

"I don't know what to tell you," Donaldson said recently when presented with the stats. "I try to approach every situation as if it's a clutch situation. I don't think, 'Oh, I'm really going to try hard this time.' You don't want to do that. If you start doing that, you won't succeed."

"I think the No. 1 reason for that is they trust themselves.
Sports psychologist Paul Dennis on athletes succeeding under high pressure.

But Donaldson isn't the only one who has come through in the clutch for the Jays this season. Collectively Jays hitters have MLB's second-highest on-base-plus-slugging (OPS) percentage in "high-leverage" situations (moments when a lead could change hands) this year at .841, which is 68 points higher than their mark in low- and medium-leverage situations.

The Jays have changed more games with their bats than any other team this year, leading the majors in Win Probability Added — a statistic that measures how each individual play increases or decreases a team's chances of winning — by a wide margin while hitting more "high-leverage" homers than any other team. (Donaldson leads the team in both categories.)

At the same time, the Jays' record in one-run games is a dismal 10-16, the third-worst mark in the majors. That, however, is more of a reflection of the pitching staff, particularly the bullpen, which has played a statistically larger role in its team's defeats than all but one other relief corps in the league.

Statistical analysts have reached a near-consensus there is no such thing as a clutch hitter. It is not a skill that correlates from year to year. Baseball Prospectus writer Russell A. Carleton, however, found that some hitters swung more often in high-leverage situations and those that did performed slightly better.

Sport psychologist Paul Dennis says elite athletes that perform well in high-pressure situations are better able to focus on rising above added distractions when the game is on the line.

"I think the No. 1 reason for that is they trust themselves," Dennis said. "They have enormous trust in their ability. Secondly they think less and are able to focus on the relevant cues."

Dennis said brain scans of elite athletes who have had success in high-pressure situations show far less neural activity in stressful situations than others.

"Those that can't perform in those situations, their brain scans are lit up like a Christmas tree."

Dennis said "clutch" athletes can isolate their focus strictly to the task.

"I think at a very early age they experienced success and they like what it feels like, especially if it was a pressure situation, so they embrace that," he said. "They may have been nervous — every athlete is nervous — but they interpret that as being facilitative, as in 'I love the challenge, I'm not afraid of failure.' That starts at an early age and once you have that mindset you embrace all those pressure situations. You love it."

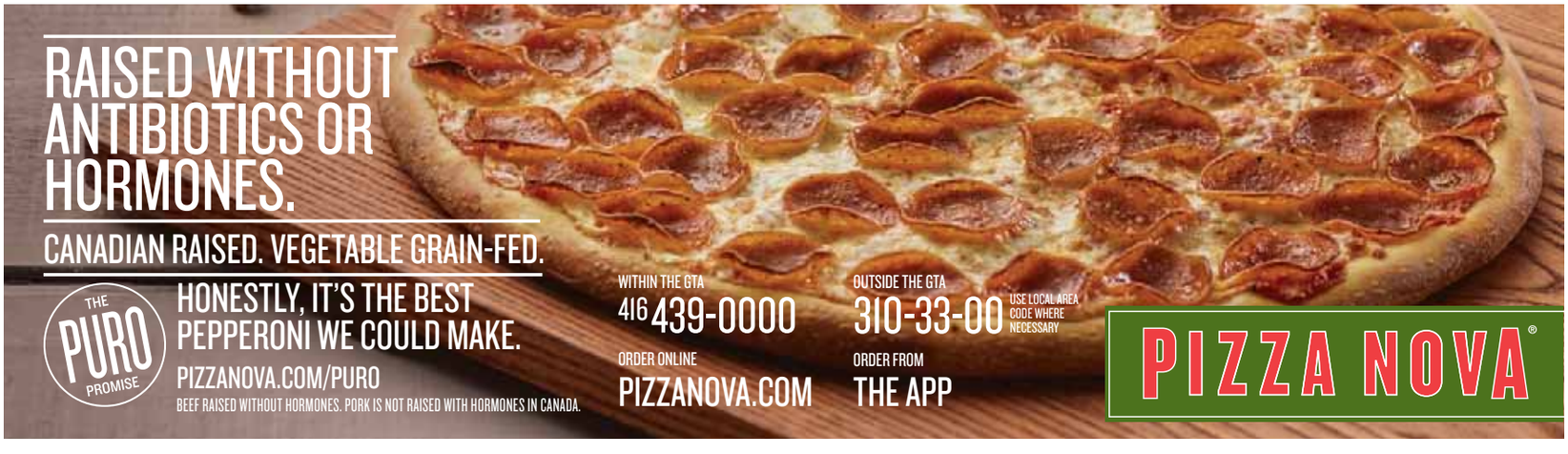
Donaldson agreed with that point, at least. "I understand that failure is part of the game," he said. "But I think a big part of it is I don't want to let that guy beat me. I don't want that guy to beat our team."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Josh Donaldson has a pair of walk-off home runs this season.
DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN CHICAGO

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of the Jays and White Sox series.



DWAYNE CASEY

Charity donation suits Raps' coach just fine

Raptors head coach Dwayne Casey THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dwane Casey remembers the one sports coat he owned in his youth. His mom painstakingly saved the $60 and purchased the coat from the men's clothing shop in Morganfield, Ken..

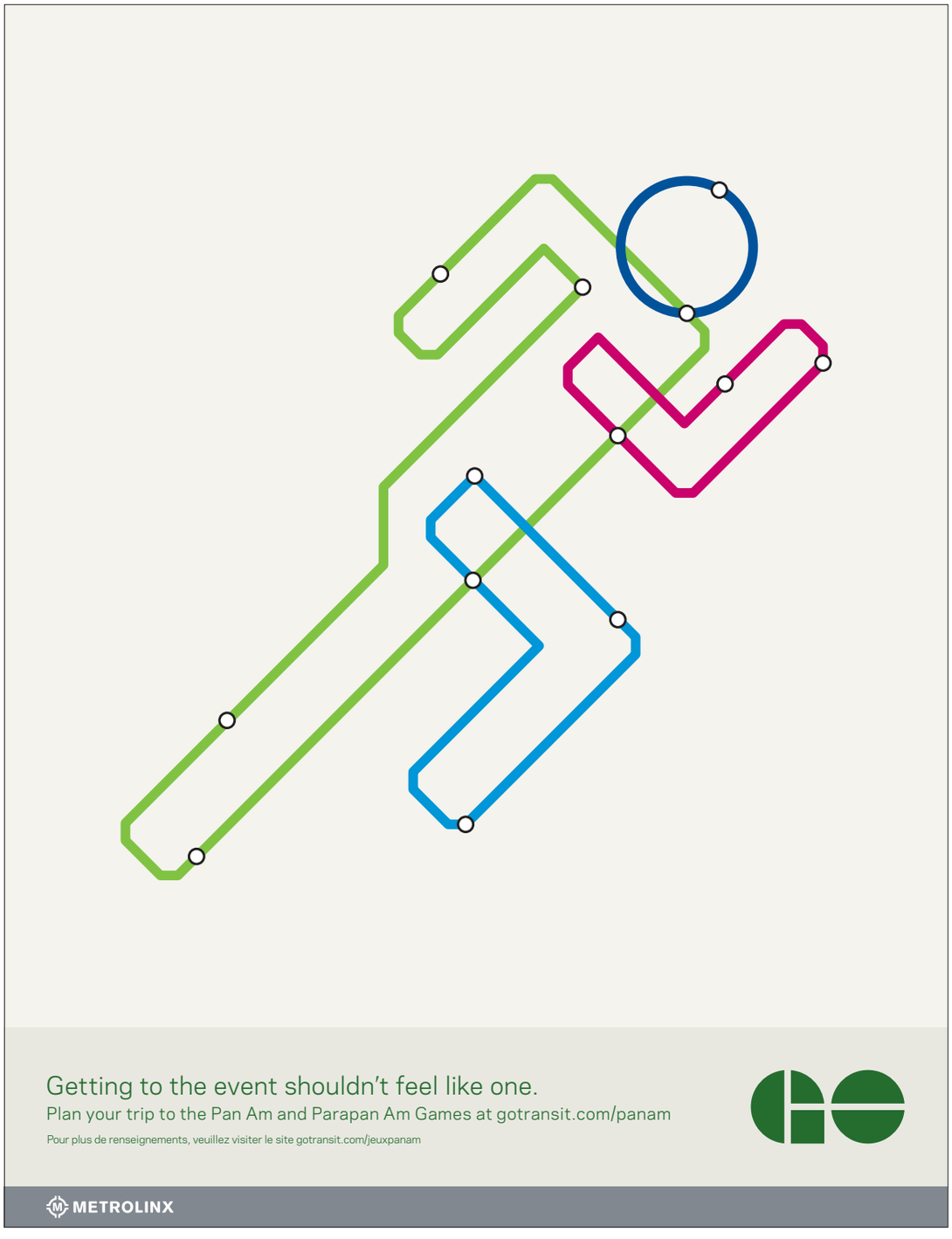
The Toronto Raptors head coach has worn out probably dozens of sport coats since, but the significance of that first one isn't lost on the 58-year-old. So Casey recently packed up 12 to 15 of his suits, plus an array of shirts and ties, and brought them to Moores for the Canadian Suit Drive, which provides proper business attire to men trying to find jobs. "I've been blessed over the years and I want to help guys to feel good about themselves when they're going for job interviews," Casey said.

Now in its sixth year, the goal is 75,000 clothing up items, up from the 72,000 the program received last year. They'll go to more than 60 participating recipient organizations.

Casey, who is a year into his three-year $11 million deal, can relate to men who are struggling. He worked at numerous odd jobs growing up, from the coal mine to tobacco fields.

"Growing up it was humble beginnings. No question (I haven't forgotten)," he said. "I totally can relate to guys going in for job interviews, and not having a white shirt, and that type of thing to wear.

THE CANADIAN PRESS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METROLINX

Leafs coach Mike Babcock preaches patience for the team's young prospects such as Sweden's William Nylander, above.
CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Babcock's message to prospects

NHL

Youngsters must go on a journey, take responsibility

Mike Babcock's message to Maple Leafs prospects is clear: Work hard now, separate yourself from the pack, and, in a few years, you might make the NHL.

The team's 57 prospects did on-ice and off-ice drills in the resort town of Collingwood before heading off for an afternoon of paintball. Babcock — who planned to skip the paintball — is taking in the camp to try to get to know some of the younger players while also passing on some advice.

> **They have to understand that it's a journey.**
> Michael Babcock

"What's interesting is that (Leaf centre) Peter Holland talked to the guys about getting drafted and how long it actually takes you to be an NHL player," said Babcock. "They have to understand it's a journey and we have to understand that too. You don't rush them. You give them the time they need to enhance their opportunity to grow as people, as men and players. You do that over time, you end up with a pretty good team."

The likes of Mitch Marner, William Nylander and Casey Bailey will tell anyone who's willing to listen that they are NHL ready, the reality is it will take time. And one of the tell-tale signs of a future NHLer is a willingness to work and get better.

"To me you're the CEO of your own company, it's not your Mom, it's not your Dad, it's not your agent, it's you," Babcock said he told the players. "So you have to take responsibility for where you're going and how you're getting there.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

MLS changes rules to cater for clubs signing top players

Major League Soccer is revamping its roster rules to help clubs accommodate top talent that doesn't qualify as designated players.

The league's new initiative, called targeted allocation money, provides clubs with US$500,000 outside this year's $3,490,000 salary budget to help sign players who are near the top of the salary scale but who are not DPs.

Under league rules, teams are allowed up to three designated players. For a designated player over the age of 23, only $436,250 of his salary actually counts against the salary cap.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TRAINING GRACE ON WHEELS The United States' Courtney Donovan trains at the roller figure skating venue for the Pan Am Games at Exhibition Centre in Toronto on Wednesday. The event gets underway this weekend.
GREGORY BULL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WATER POLO

Canadians win preliminary match

Dominique Perreault had a hat trick as Canada routed Venezuela 15-4 on Wednesday in the preliminary round of the women's water polo tournament at the Pan Am Games.

Stephanie Valin, Christine Robinson and Emma Wright had two goals each as Canada bounced back from a 7-7 tie with Brazil on Tuesday. Carmen Eggens, Monkia Eggens, Joelle Bekhazi, Jakie Kohli, Katie Monton and Krystina Alogbo rounded out the attack for the Canadians.

Jeisnaimil Agelvis, Yineldy Araujo Marin, Dulce Hernandez Cabrera and Samantha Torres Granda replied for Venezuela, which also earned a draw on Tuesday.

Canada continues preliminary group play on Thursday against Puerto Rico.

WEDNESDAY Markham

15	4
CANADA	VENEZUELA

Meantime, the United States beat Cuba 18-3 and Argentina topped Mexico 10-8.

The men's tournament continues Wednesday evening, with Ecuador facing Argentina, the U.S. playing Cuba and Venezuela taking on Brazil. Canada's men have the day off and will play Venezuela on Thursday.

Competition will start in earnest on Saturday after Friday's opening ceremonies.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian BMXers are ready to ride

PAN AM GAMES

Centennial Park in Etobicoke to host races

Tory Nyhaug shrugs because it's so obvious. A gold medal at the Pan Am Games would be a premier feather in his cap — rather, in the goggle strap around his full-face helmet.

The 23-year-old out of Coquitlam, B.C. is perhaps Canada's best hope for a podium finish in the BMX event. He won the national title last week — his fifth straight victory — and feels he's primed perform to his highest ability at the newly-built Centennial Park race track in Etobicoke, where the first heats of the event will begin this Friday.

"To compete in a major event in Canada is really a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so it's going to be exciting," said Nyhaug. At ninth place, he is currently the highest seeded Canadian on in the BMX rankings.

"It's not like a typical race where you have to spend every minute trying to figure out the track. We already kind of know the track," he continued. "I'm just going to race the best I can and hopefully at the end I'm in the final and going for a podium."

Nyhaug was among the four racers competing for Canada who were introduced to the media in Toronto on Wednesday. He is the only member to have raced in the Olympics: he rode in London in 2012 but failed to advance to the semi-finals, just weeks after he ruptured his spleen for the second time at a BMX event and had the organ surgically removed. Since then, Nyhaug has cracked the podium on the world cup circuit several times, claiming a career-best silver at the 2014 world championships.

The team includes Jimmy Brown and Daina Tuchscherer, who are both from Airdrie, Alta., as well as Amelia Walsh, who has won three straight Canadian titles and is the highest ranked Canadian woman in the world at 26th.

But the competition will be fierce. Some of the best racers in the sport are suiting up for the Pan Ams, including No. 2-ranked American Connor Fields and Colombia's Mariana Pajon, the top-seeded female BMXer in the world and gold medalist at the London Olympics.

Nyhaug cautioned that, though the Canadians are familiar with the track, their opponents have all week to practise on it and will be ready to go when qualifying time trails start on Friday.

"On race day, it's all going to be equal," he said.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tory Nyhaug competes in the Men's BMX Cycling at the London 2012 Olympic Games.
PHIL WALTER/GETTY IMAGES (INSET BERNARD WEIL/TORONTO STAR)

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RECIPE Black Bean, Mandarin Orange and Baby Shrimp Salad

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If using frozen shrimp, be sure to defrost, drain and dry completely for the best result. If mandarin oranges or tangerines are in season use them to replace the canned. Serves 4.

Ready in
Prep time: 15
Cook time: 3

Ingredients
- 1/2 cup drained, canned or frozen corn
- 4 oz baby cocktail shrimp
- 1/2 cup canned mandarin oranges, drained and patted dry
- 1/2 cup black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1/2 cup diced red bell pepper
- 1/4 cup diced red onion
- 1 1/2 tsp olive oil
- 1 1/2 lemon juice
- 1 tsp honey
- 1/2 tsp minced jalapeno peppers
- 1/2 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1/4 tsp cumin
- 3 Tbsp chopped cilantro or mint
- Salt and pepper
- 8 Boston lettuce leaves

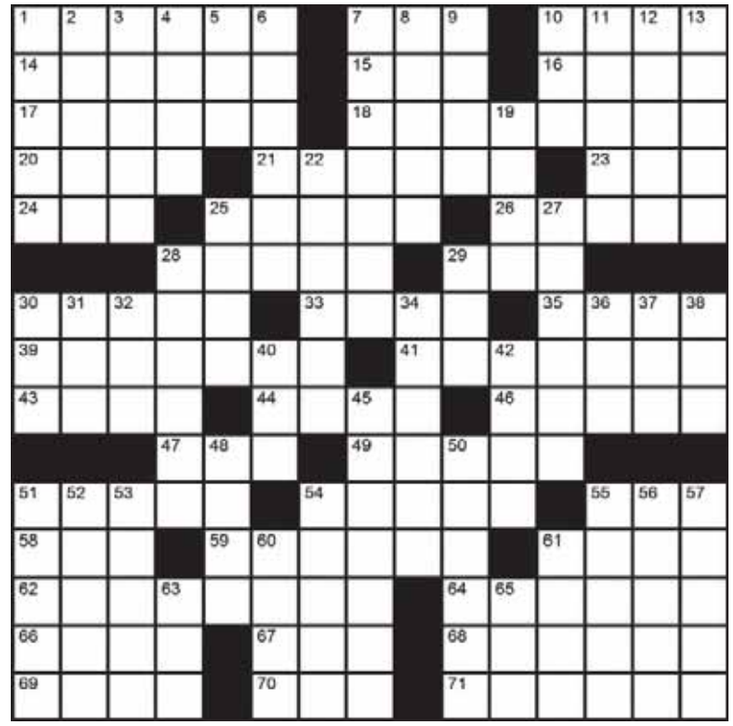
Directions
1. In small skillet sprayed with vegetable oil, add corn and sauté for three minutes, just until lightly charred. Add to bowl along with remaining ingredients. Mix well and divide over lettuce leaves.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 110
- Protein 10 g
- Fibre 4 g
- Total fat 3 g
- Sodium 200 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Mini racing vehicle
7. Tough wood
10. Help with the heist
14. Charlie Sheen's brother
15. SSW's opposite
16. Bat's hangout
17. Ms. Shire's of "Rocky" (1976)
18. Canadian vitamins brand since 1922
20. Loafer, for one
21. Villainous 'Lord' in Lord of the Rings
23. Pres. Eisenhower
24. Writer Mr. Milne's
25. Bird feather pen
26. Refuge for a castaway
28. Music producer, Jermaine __
29. "Rhoda"' production co.
30. Laboratory dish
33. Adroit
35. Try to persuade
39. __-style sunglasses
41. Trade-in at the dealership: 2 wds.
43. Hungry feelin
44. __ and terminer
46. Open-mouthed
47. Sour
49. Earthenware jar
51. Heavenly food
54. Call
55. Intercept information
58. Eggs, scientifically
59. Astute
61. Info collected from research
62. Tom Cruise's bartender movie
64. Synchronicity
66. Put on payroll
67. Wedding promise: 2 wds.
68. Degrees
69. Seaport of Yemen
70. "Steal My Sunshine" group
71. Every 12 months

DOWN
1. Enjoys, __ kick out of
2. D-Day beach
3. Metric weights, for short
4. No word of __ (True)
5. Narrow inlet
6. Outcome that could go either way
7. "Falling in Love Again" is a new single by what single-named Canadian songstress?
8. Fido's warning
9. Prefix with 'globin'
10. Deck of cards symbol
11. Pesto ingredient
12. Call forth
13. Principle
19. Put a sock __: 2 wds.
22. Put the clothes out on the line
25. Vocationally vacate
27. Blur
28. Fearsome fire-breathing flyer
29. Rushmore, et al.
30. Celeb photographer
31. Moviedom's Ms. Mendes
32. Pantry container
34. Botox injection site
36. Electronics co.
37. Discontinuity
38. Poet's 'previously'
40. Cartoon fight sound effect!
42. Let up
45. Level of command
48. Quick
50. Excessively
51. Coffee order
52. Cold shoulder it
53. Mother-of-pearl
54. "__ & Prejudice" (2005)
55. Shock weapon
56. Ring-shaped coral island
57. Popular garden flower
60. Salute
61. Prima donna
63. Mattel guy
65. Born, in bridal bios

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
People will go out of their way to do you favors today which, of course, makes you suspicious, but there is no reason to be. Some people like you and genuinely want to help.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You are taking something far too seriously and at the same time neglecting far more important issues. What happens today will offer perspective and remind you that life is too short to waste time on worry.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You may be under the impression that you can say and do what you please but that does not mean you can step out of line and be protected from the consequences every time.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You are in a generous mood at the moment and that's good, but don't fall into the trap of thinking it's about money. What others want from you is your time and attention and sympathy. Gifts are nice but not essential.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
With Venus and Jupiter moving through your sign, you are responsive to other people's moods and needs. However, watch out that their negative feelings don't start to have a negative effect on you.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You are craving something, or someone, you cannot have. Some things are best left in the realms of fantasy. Besides, reality is not so bad.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You don't lack for compassion but how about common sense? You could be fooled into thinking you are doing the right thing, when the best thing is to leave well alone.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You want to impress people who can help you realize your ambitions, but there is a danger you will go too far and say or do things that are so over the top they're counterproductive. Don't try so hard.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Don't let unexpected events undermine your confidence, especially on the work front where a series of setbacks seems to have dented your morale.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't give away too much information today. The less others know about your plans the better — one of your friends has a very big mouth and could tip off your rivals.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Be wary of anyone whose attitude towards you goes from one extreme to the other. If they are that changeable in their affections then maybe it's best to keep them at arm's length.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Your imagination is extremely powerful but there are times when it gets the better of you. The first step toward resolving your current problem is to stop worrying about it so much.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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7	6		3	8	5		4	1
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